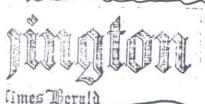
30 DAYS AFTER JFK'S DEATH TRUMAN WARNED OF DANGER OF GROWING POWER OF C.I.A. -

"... there are now some searching questions that need to be answered ..."



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Harry Truman Writes:

U.S. Should Hold CIA To Intelligence Role

By Harry S. Truman

Convright, 1963, by Heary S. Truman INDEPENDENCE, MO., Dec. himself possesses a knowledge INDEPENDENCE, MO. Deck himself possesses a knowledge 21—I think it has become necessary to take another look derstanding of our institutions, and an insight into the of our Central Intelligence to those, and an insight into the needs and aspirations of the Agency—CIA. At least, I would like to submit here the original reason why I thought it and up-to-the-minute informancessary to organize this Agency during my Administration, what I expected it to do and how it was to operate as an arm of the President.

I think it is fairly obvious that by and large a President's performance in office is as effective as the information he has and the information he gets. That is to say, that assuming the President

See TRUMAN, All, Co 3

many intelligence agencies charged with the collection of already in existence. The De-all intelligence reports from partments of State, Defense, every available source, and to others are constantly engaged as President without departin extensive information gathcring and have done excellent mental "treatment" or inter-

a special organization pretations.

But their collective information reached the President all formation in its "natural raw" tion reached the President all too frequently in conflicting state and in as comprehensive a conclusions. At times, the intelligence reports tended to be slanted to conform to established positions of a given to make full use of it be confusing and what's worse such intelligence is of little use to a President in reaching the right decisions.

Therefore, I decided to set a president to the same time to the same time to the president of the pres

own thinking and evaluating.

Since the responsibility for decision making was his — then he had to be sure that no information is kept from him for whatever reason at the discretion of any one depart-ment or agency, or that un-pleasant facts be kept from him. There are always those who would want to shield a President from bad news or misjudgments to spare him from being "upset."

For some time I have been disturbed by the way CIA has been diverted from its original assignment. It has become an operational and at times a policy-making arm of the Government. This has led to trouble and may have compounded our difficulties in several explosive areas.

I never had any thought that when I set up the CIA that it would be injected into peacetime cloak and dagger al assignment. It has become

peacetime cloak and dagger operations. Some of the com-plications and embarrassment that I think we have experi-enced are in part attributable to the fact that this quiet intelligence arm of the President has been so removed from its intended role that it is being interpreted as a symbol of sinister and mysterious foreign intrigue-and a subject for cold war enemy

propagaida.

With all the nonsense put out by Communist propagaida about "Yankee imperialism," "exploitive capitalism," "warmongering," "monopolists," in their paregalling assualt on their name-calling assualt on the West, the last thing we needed was for the CIA to be seized upon as something akin

scized upon as something akin to a subverting influence in the affairs of other people.

I well knew the first temporary director of the CIA, Adm. Souers, and the later permanent directors of the CIA, Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg and Allen Dulles. These were men of the highest character, patriotism and integrity. acter, patriotism and integrity
—and I assume this is true of
all those who continue in

But there are now some scarching questions that need to be answered. I therefore, would like to see the CIA be restored to its original assignnent as the intelligence arm f the President, and that whatever else it can properly perform in that special field-and that its operational duties be terminated or properly used elsewhere.

We have grown up nation, respected for our free institutions and for our ability to maintain a free and open society. There is something about the way the CIA has been functioning that is casting a shadow over our his-toric position and I feel that we need to correct it.