

Rockefeller, Reagan Named to CIA Panel

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President Ford has tossed the politically explosive issue of CIA domestic spying to an eight-member commission that includes two men who are likely to seek the Republican presidential nomination next year if he changes his mind about seeking a full term.

The President yesterday selected Vice President Nelson Rockefeller to head the panel and named former California Gov. Ronald Reagan to be one of its members.

The other commissioners are two former Cabinet members, a top labor leader, a retired Army general, a former solicitor general and a retired university president.

Ford ordered the commission to report within three months on an investigation intended to determine if the CIA has broken laws prohibiting it from spying on Americans in this country. The commission was also directed to recommend safeguards to prevent future abuses.

Rockefeller is a long-time member of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, a presidential panel intended to act as a watchdog on the CIA and other intelligence operations. Critics say the board never has been effective and point to the present furor to support that contention.

Ford decided to appoint the "blue ribbon" commission after reviewing a report from present CIA Director William E. Colby.

Colby has said the agency is not now engaged in any illegal domestic spying. But White House sources have said that his report substantiates at least parts of published charges of earlier CIA operations in this country.

The current controversy began last month when the New York Times said the CIA had compiled files on at least 10,000 anti-war activists and other Americans during the administration of former President Richard M. Nixon.

Other published accounts have said the domestic activities began long before Nixon took office, probably during the administration of President John F. Kennedy.

If the committee determines that the law was broken, it may find that the next part of the task — deciding when the illegal activities began and if they have ended — is highly sensitive politically.

In addition to Rockefeller and Reagan, the members of the commission include:

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John T. Connor, chairman of Allied Chemical Corp., and Commerce secretary in the Johnson administration; C. Douglas Dillon, chairman of the board of Dillon, Read & Co., Treasury secretary in the Kennedy administration and undersecretary of State in the Eisenhower administration; Erwin N. Griswold, an attorney who was solicitor general in the Johnson and Nixon administrations and before that was dean of the Harvard Law School; Lyman L. Lemnitzer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1960 to 1963; Edgar F. Shannon Jr., retired president of the University of Virginia, and J. Lane Kirkland, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO.

Although most of the eight commission members have well known political views, the best clue as to the ultimate direction of the investigation may come when the appointment of an executive director is announced, possibly sometime this week.

Rockefeller Press Secretary Hugh Morrow said the vice president was conducting a talent hunt by telephone from his estate in Westchester, N. Y., the Associated Press reported. Morrow said the first priority was to pick a director to head the staff, who would be appointed by the President on Rockefeller's recommendation.

Ford has left little doubt that a primary purpose of the panel is to head off a proliferation of congressional investigations of the CIA.

Congressional leaders, however, made it clear that the appointment of the

commission would not keep Congress from investigating on its own.

Prominent members from both major parties said congressional investigation of illegal spying by the CIA would continue.

Sen. Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Republican leader, said he expected congressional inquiries to continue long after the panel's report was filed.

"I believe it is necessary for the congressional committees, the Neftzi subcommittee in the House, the Stennis Armed Services Committee in the Senate, to continue its own investigation," Scott told the New York Times.

Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi, D-Mich., is chairman of the intelligence subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee. He said yesterday that his panel would investigate charges that the CIA had spied on Americans.

Sen. John C. Stennis, D-Miss., could not be reached for comment. He is chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and its central intelligence subcommittee.

But Scott, who is a member of the subcommittee, made it clear the Republican leadership would not try to postpone the investigation. Speaking on the ABC television program, Issues and Answers, he said the original charter of the CIA was so broad "that one suspects there could have been abuses."

"If so," he said, "it is up to us to find them." Scott praised the President's choice of members

for the commission, calling it "truly blue ribbon."

Other prominent members of Congress were less enthusiastic. Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., said the choice of Vice President Rockefeller as commission chairman "leaves something to be desired."

The commission's three-month mandate may make it difficult for the group to answer all questions about the agency, which has been wrapped in secrecy since its inception in 1947.

The commission will have no subpoena power, White House Press Secretary Ronald Nessen said Saturday.

The commission's star witness is expected to be former CIA Director Richard Helms, currently U.S. ambassador to Iran.

Helms conferred with Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger Saturday. He has had no public comment on the charges — which center on his tenure as CIA director — since he issued a statement denying any illegal activity.

Members of the commission declared to comment on

the specifics of the investigation. Those who would talk for publication limited themselves to generalities.

"I accept this assignment from the President with a deep sense of responsibility as to the need for public confidence in our governmental institutions, the vital necessity of preserving our national security, and the basic concepts of freedom and human dignity," Rockefeller said in a statement issued by his office.

"Because of the nature of the assignment, the governor said it would not be appropriate to make any comment on the details," Reagan's office said, according to United Press International.

The appointment of Rockefeller to head the panel seems to be part of Ford's pledge to give the vice president an active role in the administration.

The selection of Reagan rates as one of the biggest surprises. The former motion picture and television actor served eight years as governor of California be-

fore declining to seek a third term last fall.

As governor, Reagan was a harsh critic of anti-war activists and college radical accounts say were primary targets of CIA domestic activities. Reagan has been a strong advocate of firm steps to protect the national security.

Reagan has made no secret of his ambition to make another run for the presidential nomination that eluded his grasp in 1968. He has strong support among conservative elements of the Republican party.

Although he now insists he was joking, Reagan once mused in public about the possibility of leading a conservative third-party ticket if Ford let his policies drift to the left.

Ford has said he will run for a term of his own in 1976. If he does so, it would seem to close out both Rockefeller and Reagan who would probably be too old to run by 1980. However, the President recently said in an interview with United Press International that he

might reassess his plans if his wife's health deteriorates or if he faces some other unexpected family tragedy.

If Ford steps aside or if the Republican party denies him the nomination, Rockefeller and Reagan would become the pre-primary front runners.

There are no potential candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination on the commission although Kirkland, as one of the top aides to AFL-CIO President George Meany, has been active in Democratic politics.

Connor served as a member of a Democratic cabinet as did Dillon although Dillon is a registered Republican.

Griswold was named by Kennedy to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, a post he held until he was appointed by Johnson to be so-far general, the nation's chief trial lawyer. Nixon kept Griswold in the solicitor general post throughout his first term, replacing the former Harvard Dean at the start of the second

Pravda Hits U.S. On Allegations

That CIA Spied

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist party paper Pravda says that charges of illegal spying by the CIA in the United States were an indication that America's "vaunted bourgeois democracy" was turning into a "system of total surveillance and espionage."

A Pravda editorial yesterday quoted U.S. press reports as saying the CIA may have accumulated dossiers on 10,000 Americans in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Pravda commentator Tomas Kolecnichenko said in the editorial that American "apologists" are quick to accuse socialist states of "an absence of democracy" and "persecution of dissenters" while claiming that American society has achieved the peak of democracy.

"However, exposures of persecution of dissenters in the U.S.A. are emerging one after another," he said. "This time, the talk concerns the unmasking of CIA espionage activity within America itself."