

# CLIFFORD FAVORS A SPECIAL INQUIRY INTO C.I.A. 'SPYING'

Declares Investigation by  
Regular Congress Panel  
Would Not Be Effective

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 25—Clark M. Clifford, the former Secretary of Defense who helped to draft the 1947 legislation setting up the Central Intelligence Agency, urged Congress today to form a special committee to investigate the published charges of domestic spying by that agency.

"Previous investigations into the C.I.A. by ordinary [Senate and House Armed Services] Committees haven't gotten very far," said Mr. Clifford, who served in President Johnson's Cabinet. "The seriousness of this is such that I would recommend a full and exhaustive investigation by a special committee."

Thus far, the chairmen of four panels—including the House and Senate Armed Services Intelligence Subcommittees—have announced plans for full inquiries next year stemming from a report in The New York Times last Sunday that the C.I.A. had allegedly mounted a massive and illegal domestic spying operation during the Nixon Administration.

### 50-Page Report Due

In Vail, Colo., where President Ford is skiing and working, he told newsmen this morning that he would receive tomorrow a 50-page report on the domestic spying allegations from William E. Colby, the Central Intelligence Director. Mr. Ford said that the document, which is being relayed to him by Secretary of State Kissinger, would be thoroughly studied before the White House commented on it.

Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, said that the document included several appendixes, but would not elaborate.

In Teheran, Iran, officials at the United States Embassy said that Ambassador Richard Helms, who was the agency's director when the alleged spying took place, had left the country for an undisclosed destination in Europe. The State Department said yesterday that Mr. Helms' trip, characterized as a prearranged home leave, would return him to Washington early next month.

### A Denial by Helms

A "categorical denial" by Mr. Helms of the domestic spying charges was relayed to newsmen yesterday by the State Department.

The New York Times, quoting well-placed Government sources, reported Sunday allegations that the C.I.A. had violated its charter by conducting massive, illegal intelligence operations aimed at antiwar activities and other American dissidents inside the United States. Intelligence files on at least 10,000 American citizens were compiled, the sources said.

Two days later, James Angle-

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ton, director of the C.I.A.'s counterintelligence division and one of the officials singled out in The Times's article, resigned after 31 years of Government intelligence work.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Clifford said that he had never been briefed on any domestic activities by the C.I.A. during his service from 1961 to 1968 as a member and later chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

The board was set up by President Kennedy, after the failure of the Bay of Pigs operation in Cuba in 1961, to provide high-level outside review of secret intelligence operations.

"What they [the C.I.A.] did was just never mentioned to us during their briefings," Mr. Clifford said. "These fellows [at the C.I.A.] obviously were operating with the greatest degree of secrecy."

"I can tell you," he added, "that whatever they did they did at their peril. If J. Edgar Hoover had heard of it, he would have come in blasting. It would have caused quite a snarl."

Even before the drafting of the 1947 National Security Act setting up the C.I.A. began, Mr. Clifford recalled, Mr. Hoover laid the lawdown: the F.B.I. was to be the sole agency of the Government to handle matters inside the continental United States.

At the time, Mr. Clifford, now the senior partner in a Washington law firm, was a lawyer on the White House staff of President Truman.

It took careful negotiations inside the Truman Administration, Mr. Clifford said, to achieve a consensus on the powers of the new C.I.A. "We very carefully carved out their functions," he recalled, to restrict C.I.A. operations inside the United States.

Since then, he added, he knew of no secret White House

directives that would give the C.I.A. any operational power in the United States, even in the case of foreign espionage agents.

"If a secret agent comes to the United States," he said, "the C.I.A. must immediately inform the F.B.I."

If the published allegations are true, he said, "it means that the C.I.A. just chose to disregard what the limits of the act were."

In a subsequent telephone interview, Maxwell D. Taylor, a retired Army general who served on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board from 1965 until 1970, also said that he had never been informed of any domestic C.I.A. operations.

"I know the statute under which the C.I.A. operates," he said.

General Taylor did acknowl-



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edge that some highly secret protocols to the 1947 act had been agreed upon. Those agreements are known to deal with the C.I.A.'s overseas activities.