

What's your opinion on domestic

F Post 12-30-74

By RONNIE D. SMITH
Staff Writer

Many Frederick County people reportedly are naive in the ways of the United States CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), and some here think that the reported domestic spying by the CIA is a no-no. But few knew, according to an unscientific News-Post survey conducted Sunday night, that domestic spying by the CIA is illegal under its 1947 charter.

With the CIA-denied disclosures Saturday by Time Magazine that the CIA spied on several government officials — most notable among them Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas — and with the announcement Sunday by U.S. Sen. William Proxmire that an independent special prosecutor's office be established to prosecute any illegal action by CIA agents, the News-Post asked citizens county-wide if the CIA should conduct in-country surveillance of both government officials and private citizens.

Here is what some citizens thought.

A 26-year-old woman resident of Frederick said: "I wouldn't want them (CIA) spying on me." But she added: "There are a lot of times when we should know what's going on." She said that in those rare circumstances, the CIA should be allowed to spy on people within this country. But another citizen didn't agree completely.

Louis H. Bargmann of Damascus said: "Certainly, 100 per cent. What do you think we have them for?" Bargmann added that if we don't let the CIA do its job, "let's abolish them, if they're not

allowed to spy."

Many people surveyed said they were not well-read, if read at all, on what specific function the CIA serves.

Mrs. Emily E. McGinnis was representative of this view. "I would have to take and do a lot of studying on this. There are a lot of things going on in

government that I don't know about," said Mrs. McGinnis. Then she added: "There are a lot of crooked people around; and if that (spying) is the way to find them out, I guess it's okay." A Union Bridge resident agreed.

Mrs. Harriet N. Grossnickle said, "To a certain extent, the CIA should be

allowed to spy in this country." She said that "some in high government don't have clean skirts," and if CIA surveillance uncovers this, all the better. As she put it: "If your skirts are clean, what do you have to lose?"

Mrs. Grossnickle's husband, A. T. Grossnickle, agreed with her. "Go ahead

and investigate 'em," he said. "If they are doing wrong, they need someone to cut them back."

Mrs. Grossnickle defended any possible CIA surveillance of Supreme Court Justice Douglas. "He's (Douglas)

See WHAT'S, page A-5

erratic," she said. She said that possible CIA spying might weed out bad seeds in government.

But Wallace Ford of Emmitsburg said the CIA should not be allowed to spy in this country. "No, I don't think they should spy," he said. "I don't believe in it."

Although the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) is given the sole duty to conduct surveillance within this country, Time Magazine said that the CIA took on domestic spying because the FBI regularly refused to follow up on CIA requests for the surveillance of American citizens.

Should the CIA spy in this country as it is chartered to do abroad? "No, I don't think they (CIA) should spy in our own country," said Mrs. Norman E. Abrecht of Frederick. She said the CIA should be allowed to "question" citizens who might be suspect, "but I don't call that spying." She summed it up this way: "I

feel spying (by the CIA) in this country is wrong. I really do."

A Creagerstown man agreed. Asked if the CIA should be allowed to spy at home, Carroll R. Wastler, said: "No, that shouldn't be done. I just don't think it's right."

As Russell C. Fisher, a Thurmont resident, put it: "They (the CIA) were put together to spy outside the U.S. — not here at home." Larry R. Miller of Frederick agreed. "It's none of their (CIA) business what the private citizen does (in this country)."

Marcus D. Keyser Jr. of Yellow Springs thought that scenarios like possible CIA domestic spying and even Watergate with all its related revelations waste a citizen's time. He said that the country wastes its time in investigating Watergate-like affairs. Though, he admitted, crimes by government officials "should be brought out." Keyser said, too, that in specific cases, like "conspiring against the government," the CIA should be allowed to investigate.

Marvin B. Shipley of Eldersburg didn't think it was a question of whether the CIA should spy or not. He said that if the CIA is conducting domestic surveillance operations, that it is just another example of how this country has run astray of the Bible and the Word of God. "Our country was founded on the Bible," said Shipley, "unless we change (and go back to the Bible) we are doomed."

If there is one disturbing fact that floated subtly to the surface via the survey, it's this: People in this county, and by extension, in this country, know precious little about one arm of government called the CIA. Few surveyed knew that domestic spying by the CIA is illegal.