

CIA Linked to Other Agencies

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

The Central Intelligence Agency has had an undercover relationship with narcotics and customs agents. This raises the question of whether the CIA has hidden its illegal domestic operations behind other federal agencies.

We recently reported, for example, that federal narcotics agents maintained secret, bugged apartments for the CIA in San Francisco and New York City during the early 1960s. The CIA used these apartments, according to our sources, as sex traps to blackmail foreign diplomats into becoming informants.

We have now dug deeper into the CIA-narcotics connection. Here are our findings:

- Several years ago, the CIA trained 13 narcotics agents at its super-secret counterespionage school. Most of the agents are still working for the Drug Enforcement Agency.

- We have the names of 64 former CIA employees who now work for the DEA. About half are assigned to the Intelligence Unit at DEA's Washington headquarters. The others are scattered in seven foreign countries and nine U.S. cities.

- In another operation, the drug agency laundered payments through the CIA to an informant who travels abroad and picks up intelligence on narcot-

ics. Because the man is still an active DEA informant, we won't identify him.

- William Hood, who retired shortly after press reports linked him to CIA domestic spying operations, was issued a set of federal narcotics credentials. We have established that he used them at least once in New York City.

Both CIA and DEA spokesmen insist that the working relationship between the two agencies was part of the war against drugs. When the DEA was reorganized in July, 1973, CIA chief William Colby reviewed the interagency cooperation with DEA boss John Bartels. They agreed to sever all domestic ties.

Bartels has also sent an internal memo to all former CIA agents now on the DEA payroll to ask whether they still have secret CIA links. All replies have been negative.

Footnote: Our associate Bob Owens also contacted many of the former CIA agents. All denied any continuing association with the spy agency.

Rigging Elections—Among the papers recently stolen from Daniel Ellsberg and recovered by the police were his minutes of a secret Saigon meeting at which then-Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge made some startling comments about rigging elections.

The police turned over the stolen papers to Congress,

which locked them in a safe. But from a noncongressional source, we have obtained a copy of the Ellsberg minutes.

The minutes record what was said at a secret meeting at the U.S. embassy in Saigon on July 25, 1966. There was a discussion of the approaching South Vietnamese elections.

Deputy Ambassador William Porter noted that Maj. Gen. Edward Lansdale, the pacification chief, and Maj. Gen. Nguyen Duc Thang, the South Vietnamese pacification minister, were working together to keep the elections honest.

This triggered a surprising response from Ambassador Lodge. "You've got a gentleman in the White House right now who has spent most of his life rigging elections," snorted Lodge, referring to Lyndon B. Johnson.

"I've spent most of my life rigging elections," Lodge added. A former senator, he was Richard Nixon's running mate on the 1960 Republican presidential ticket.

"I spent nine whole months once rigging a Republican convention," he went on, "to choose Ike (Dwight Eisenhower) as a candidate rather than Bob Taft.

"The issue here is whether you can have open primaries. The fact is that in Southeast Asia in wartime you simply cannot have open primaries....

"What worries me about the newspapermen is that they set

higher standards for these people than we set for ourselves at home. Nixon and I would have taken Chicago in 1960 if there had been an honest count.

"The Republican machine there was simply lazy; they didn't get out the vote, and they didn't have anyone watching the polls. But I don't blame the Republicans. There is just a limit to how naive or hypocritical we can afford to be out here."

Then, according to the minutes, Lodge turned to Porter and demanded: "Is that responsive to your question?"

The minutes describe Porter as "looking slightly taken aback." He is quoted as responding: "I just thought Gen. Lansdale should stay close to Gen. Thang on the issue of elections."

"Well . . ." Lodge shot back, "I want Gen. Lansdale to stay close to Thang on the subject of pacification, which I think is a great deal more important."

Footnote: The minutes also describe "a long discussion of the problem of unsolicited presents to Vietnamese and the troops, (including) several tons of bubble gum and foot powder. Lodge wondered whether there was no one in Washington who would take the responsibility for saying 'no'."