

To Check on C.I.A.

To the Editor:

On June 7 you printed a letter from Robert F. Drinan, Member of Congress, 4th Dist. Mass., in which he called "incredible" my statement, "... in my opinion the Congress has done a good job of checking 'on C.I.A. activities" (Op-Ed May 17).

Father Drinan then goes on to say that he was advised that only two members of Congress knew how much money was voted for C.I.A. in 1971, and the even more misleading statement, "... no one in the Congress yet knows how much money the C.I.A. spends or how it expends the amount allotted."

From 1953 through 1961, as Inspector General of C.I.A. I was charged by the Director with assisting in the supervision of the Agency's work with the Congress. From 1962 until I left the Government in 1965 as the Executive Director-Comptroller, I was in charge of the preparation of the budget and its presentation to the Appropriations Committees. In fact, the first budget hearing I attended was with C.I.A. Director Walter Bedell Smith in 1951 when Clarence Cannon of Missouri was chairman.

In this period covering some fifteen years C.I.A. gave to the committee a full report on its budget. In fact, under the chairmanship of Representative George Mahon of Texas, the House Appropriations Committee examined in even greater detail the amounts allotted and the rationale behind the expenditures. Further, mem-

bers of the subcommittee were invited to examine details of the budget to whatever extent their time permitted.

As far as the Armed Services Committees are concerned, there never was any question but that the C.I.A. subcommittee members could inform themselves of whatever details about C.I.A., within whatever guidelines the chairman prescribed. Thus my statement about the quality of the Congressional check on C.I.A.

Father Drinan's letter does illustrate what I consider to be a situation not in the best interests of the nation: that some members of the Congress are not even aware of the extent of review of C.I.A. performed by the subcommittees in Appropriations and Armed Services in both houses.

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