



By Frank Johnston—The Washington Post

One of the new signs pointing way to Central Intelligence Agency makes an appearance off Rte. 123 in Langley.

Suddenly, the Super-Secret CIA Goes Public

By Ken Ringle

Washington Post Staff Writer

For more than a decade, the George Washington Memorial Parkway exit south of Turkey Run has been variously labeled "Bureau of Public Roads," "Federal Highway Administration," or "Fairbanks Highway Research Station."

This week parkway workmen finally put up signs showing where it really leads—to the mammoth headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, Va.

Parkway superintendent

David A. Ritchie said the request for the new sign "came down some months back from CIA." A spokesman at CIA said the sign was ordered by James R. Schlesinger when he took over CIA for four months early this year.

"He came in here and said 'Where's the sign?' and there wasn't one so we got one," the spokesman said. He said the sign was part of a general policy of increased openness that Schlesinger ordered at the nation's spy agency, where switchboard operators now answer calls

with "CIA" instead of just repeating the phone number.

Parkway superintendent Richey said the lack of a sign at CIA was "sort of a joke going back over the years. People know very well the highway station is not the principal agency down that road." For years, roadmaps have identified the location of the CIA.

Richey said he never knew of anyone getting lost trying to find CIA, and that a greater problem was keeping sightseers and tourists out.

The CIA spokesman said people in quest of the agency get lost all the time.

"We get cab drivers who never find us," he said. "They wind up circling around and around like some sort of Flying Dutchman on the Beltway."

Did Schlesinger ever get lost trying to find CIA?

"I don't think so," said the agency spokesman. "That's a piquant thought, but I don't think that guy gets lost doing anything."

of CIA, Schlesinger moved after four months as head of last May to Secretary of Defense.