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The CIA-DIA Fued

The recent intelligence revelations have intensified the backroom bickering between the Central Intelligence Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency, a smoldering, subterranean feud of charge and countercharge, of snoop and countersnoop.

The CIA finally summarized its grievances late last year in a top-secret report, criticizing the DIA's handling of intelligence, charging that it merely duplicates the CIA's functions and calling for a drastic shakeup of the intelligence community.

The "Taylor Report," named for project director Edmund Taylor of the CIA, recommended that all intelligence resources should be placed under a general intelligence director.

Under the Taylor plan, the director would manage both the CIA and DIA, with complete control over the intelligence budget. He would make his headquarters presumably at the CIA center in Langley, Va.

Financially speaking, the plan is attractive to the CIA which now receives only about 20 per cent of the national intelligence budget. For the Taylor reorganization would put the CIA clique in the dominant position.

The Taylor Report sharply criticized the quality of U.S. intelligence, particularly that produced by the DIA. The document charged that the overlapping intelligence effort produced conflicting reports, created dangerous confusion, prevented coordination and created a false sense of security.

The top-secret report produced an almighty howl from the Pentagon's intelligence chiefs, who complained that it was inaccurate, unfair and one-sided. The intelligence programs outside the CIA, they insisted, were well conducted and coordinated. In any event, they argued that the real issue wasn't control over intelligence but the excesses of the intelligence agencies.

The Taylor report was submitted to President Ford, who asked for another, interagency report presenting all sides. The second report offered a range of alternatives for the President to choose

from. Intelligence sources tell us they are dissatisfied with the few organizational changes that have been made. These changes won't strengthen the main failings, they say, where national security is at stake.

Beyond this, security prevents us from discussing the failings more specifically.

Fuddle Factory: Below the top layer of government are a host of anonymous deputies and assistants, faceless men and women with unseen power, who often pull the strings that cause the leaders to move.

One of the second-level satchems at the Commerce Department, for example, is the Assistant Secretary for Domestic and International Business. He is largely invisible to the voting public, but he carries a big stick. He can make his influence felt in business circles around the world.

A recent holder of the post was Travis Reed. He quickly became known inside the Commerce Department as "Travelin' Travis." During his first five months on the job, he took 13 trips. Many times he found an excuse to fly to his ski chalet in Idaho.

He eventually resigned in a snit over a refusal by Commerce brass to let him make a side trip to Paris from the Middle East, but the crafty Reed had made arrangements for his political future. He had retained and promoted Deputy Assistant Secretary John Gleason.

So the grateful Gleason owed Reed a favor. The favor was to install a new Commerce field office in Boise, Idaho. And who was the new Idaho office manager? Reed's special assistant, William Glasford.

Now Glasford can move freely throughout the Idaho business community spreading the good word about Travis Reed. And Travelin' Travis has started traveling around Idaho preparing to run for political office.

Footnote: Reed defended his travel as a necessary part of his job. Both Reed and Gleason also denied setting up the Idaho office as a political move.