

Parade 9-15-78

CHECKING THE CHECKERS

Sen. Charles H. Percy (R., Ill.) wants

Congress to do something which it never before has done--demand an accounting of all the intelligence, police and investigative agents hidden within the federal government.

"We find ourselves," Percy says, "threatened by the specter of a watchdog government breeding a nation of snoopers. We are threatened because we do not know the facts about our intelligence community. Billions are appropriated each year, but we do not know enough about which agencies spend this money and what they spend it for.

"There is an immediate, urgent need for a comprehensive accounting of the U.S. funds and federal government personnel devoted to police, investigative, and intelligence work.

"Congress is simply not performing the oversight functions our citizens expect of us."

Percy says that a Library of Congress survey reveals more than 60 units within the federal bureaucracy involved in police, intelligence, and investigative work and that the budget for only 14 of these exceeds \$1 billion.

"One estimate," he declares, "places the cost of all U.S. police, investigative, and intelligence units at more than \$6.2 billion annually. And the exact number of personnel employed remains unknown."