

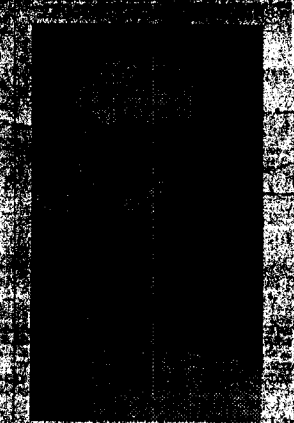
Church Promises to Probe Charges of CIA Infiltration

Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) yesterday promised an immediate investigation of charges that the Central Intelligence Agency had periodically infiltrated the White House and other executive agencies.

Both CIA Director William E. Colby and the White House strenuously denied the allegations. Colby denounced them as "baseless and vicious" charges.

Church's chairman of the Senate Select Committee said he would refrain from jumping to conclusions in the Senate CIA investigation thus far and therefore an appropriate investigation will be made.

Members of the stalemated House intelligence committee disclosed Wednesday that they had been told of secret evidence that the CIA had a long-standing practice of "penetrating" the White House and other agencies and that the



undercover operatives had included a high-level aide to President Nixon.

The congressman also said that the House committee's staff director, Sean P. Field, after a recent inspection of CIA

documents, believed that not even Presidents were aware of the White House "infiltration."

Colby and White House press secretary Ron Nessen insisted that no CIA agents were ever surreptitiously placed on any White House staff, but they were not entirely clear about the nature of all the CIA assignments at the White House or who at the White House would have known about them.

Speaking with reporters before and after a closed hearing of a House Post Office subcommittee on another issue, Colby said he had "no idea" whether any CIA employees ever had access to the Oval Office.

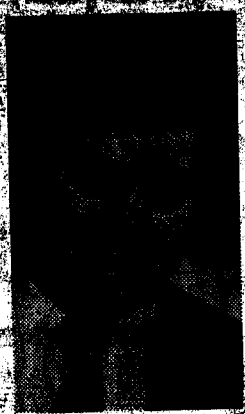
"What the White House does with the people we detail to them is, of course, the White House's business," the CIA director said.

Nessen said some CIA employees may be working at the

See CIA, A11, Col. 1

... CIA from ...
... House now ...
... that "they are here ...
... only." He said at least ...
... the staff of the Na- ...
... Security Council and ...
... may be a handful of ...
... who work elsewhere, ...
... CIA ...
... White ...
... briefing when the ...
... He said none ...
... personal ...
... House was working ...
... hidden or undercover ...
... have been ...
... past, there never has ...
...
... Asked whether the CIA ...
... workers reported daily to the ...
... agency on what they had ...
... learned, the White House ...
... secretary said, "as far as ...
... know, no." But did not rule ...
... the possibility ...
...
... Asked whether such reports ...
... occasionally would be made to ...
... CIA, Colby said only that ...
... they are very clearly in- ...
... structed that when they go ...
... down there, they work for the ...
... White House and not the ...
... CIA ...
... The CIA director drew a ...
... blank on the report that the ...
... agency's operatives included a ...
... high-ranking aide in the Nixon ...
... White House, reportedly some- ...
... one just below the level of the ...
... staff director H. R. Haldeman ...
... and domestic affairs advisor ...
... John D. Ehrlichman ...
... "I can't identify that refer- ...
... ence at all," Colby said ...
... Colby insisted, however, ...
... that the "CIA has never done ...
... anything with respect to the ...
... White House that's not known ...
... to the White House." He said ...
... various White House officials ...
... should be informed of this or ...
... that assignment, but not nec- ...
... essarily the President ...
... "An individual might be do- ...
... ing a clerical job or something ...
... of that nature and the Presi- ...
... dent wouldn't necessarily ...
... know about that himself," ...
... Colby declared. He said CIA ...
... workers carried out various ...
... functions connected with the ...
... part of the White House ...
... intelligence operations ...

... did not elaborate ...
... By contrast, Nesson indi- ...
... cated that "the President and ...
... a lot of other people know" of ...
... each CIA assignment to the ...
... White House. He said, "It ...
... shows up on the payroll." ...
... The White House press sec- ...
... retariat said all information ...
... came from various sources, ...
... but declined to identify them. ...
... "This is barking up a nonexist- ...
... ing tree," Nesson said. "I be- ...
... lieve the people I talked to." ...
... The allegations aired by ...
... members of the House com- ...
... mittee Wednesday reportedly ...
... were based in part on a 1973 ...
... White House compilation of ques- ...
... tionable CIA practices made ...
... by the CIA inspector general's ...
... office ...
... Church said, "It would be a ...
... misrepresentation of the most pro- ...
... vative kind" if the charges ...
... were true, but emphasized ...
... that he was not in a position ...
... to name them at this point. ...
... "I should think that the ...
... agency would refrain from ...
... naming Presidents," Church ...
... said ...
... Colby acknowledged he ...
... made a mistake in reporting ...
... President Ford last Decem- ...
... ber that the FBI had been in- ...
... formed from the outset about ...
... the illegal CIA mail program ...
... program that began in 1960 ...
... and lasted nearly 20 years ...
... the Rockefeller commission, ...
... which disclosed that the FBI ...
... was not apprised of the opera- ...
... tion until several years after it ...
... started, stated it "very accu- ...
... rately," Colby said. He added ...
... that his report to Mr. Ford ...
... prompted by disclosures in ...
... the New York Times, was ...
... patched together in a single ...
... day. He attributed the mistake ...
... to the fact that this was the in- ...
... formation "I was dealing with ...
... at the time." ...
... Church said his commit- ...
... tee's investigation of the FBI ...
... was being hampered by the ...
... failure of the FBI and the Jus- ...
... tice Department to supply re- ...
... quested documents concerning ...
... a long list of allegations ...
... "As a result, the committee ...
... asked Attorney General Ed- ...
... ward H. Levi and FBI Direc- ...
... tor Clarence M. Kelley to ap- ...
... pear next week and explain ...
... why two months have ...
... passed" since the bulk of the ...
... requests were made. Church ...
... said Kelley had asked for a ...
... license to tell the committee ...
... to turn about the "highly sen- ...
... sative" nature of documents ...
... concerning the CIA-Justice ...
... Department relationship that ...



SEN. FRANK CHURCH
Inquiry "appropriate"

already have been turned over.

Senate committee counsel Fritz Schwarz told reporters that the withheld documents are needed to check out allegations of FBI political abuses, such as the use of secret files, electronic surveillance and break-ins, organization and support of purportedly radical organizations, questionable use of FBI informers, and various disruptive activities.

The Church committee continued its secret hearings into CIA involvement in foreign assassination schemes and murder attempts with testimony from several witnesses, including former Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Thomas Parrott, a former CIA official who served as executive secretary in the late Eisenhower and early Kennedy years to the "special group," a subcommittee of the National Security Council in charge of covert operations.

Rusk had no comment except to remark on completing his testimony that "I don't have time to brood about the past."

Apparently sensitive to the point, Church volunteered to reporters, before Rusk testified, that probing the past was not "a pleasant duty" but one that must be performed in hopes of determining whether the CIA was ordered to engage "in this dirty business" by top government officials or whether it was simply an agency "running wild."

Political Use Of CIA Fund By Firm Told

By Brooks Jackson
Associated Press

Ashland Oil, Inc. used some of the money it got from the Central Intelligence Agency for admittedly illegal domestic political donations, according to two authoritative sources.

An Ashland spokesman insisted that the CIA had not earmarked the money for political use, but the spokesman admitted that the company may have unintentionally been misleading when it said earlier that the CIA money was "unrelated" to the company's political gifts.

The spokesman conceded that about \$50,000, which Ashland got from the CIA in cash in 1968, 1969 and 1971, was mingled with a secret cash fund used by top Ashland officials to make illegal donations. Also put into the fund were hundreds of thousands of dollars secretly siphoned off from Ashland's own overseas operations.

Two sources familiar with the various federal investigations into Ashland's affairs said some or all of the cash given by the CIA was passed on to U.S. political campaigns. Ashland spokesmen would not deny this, but they pointed out that when the fund was eliminated in 1973, it still had more cash in it than the sum of the CIA's cash payments.

The fund was used to make more than \$700,000 in donations to Richard M. Nixon, Hubert H. Humphrey, the Democratic Party and others including many still not identified publicly.

The CIA paid Ashland \$50,468 in cash and another \$48,500 in checks, allegedly to reimburse the company for the salary of a CIA agent carried on Ashland's payroll.

The checks were deposited in a company bank account and apparently did not pass into the political fund, according to a report Ashland filed this week with the Securities and Exchange Commission.