

Colby denies CIA infiltrated White House, federal agencies

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Director William E. Colby of the Central Intelligence Agency denied as outrageous nonsense today statements that the CIA had infiltrated the White House and other federal agencies.

"There is no truth to it," Colby said. He said government agencies, including the CIA, "detail people back and forth but this is known to the agencies."

Asked about a report that the CIA had a high-level contact in the White House during former President Richard M. Nixon's administration, Colby said: "I can't identify that reference at all."

The CIA director made the statements in testimony before a House subcommittee investigating CIA mail-opening activities.

He also denied that the CIA has infiltrated the news media or that it had a contact with a former CBS vice president, although Colby refused to comment in detail.

"I can't comment on that because I

don't know what they (such reports) are referring to," Colby said. "Obviously we are not infiltrating the news media."

Two congressmen said Wednesday the House Intelligence committee has evidence the CIA had infiltrated the White House, at least three other federal agencies and the news media.

"I am not sure spying is the right word," said Rep. Robert W. Kasten, Jr., R-Wis. "But it looks like there are infiltrations by the CIA."

Kasten said committee staff members saw documents at the CIA indicating the agency had contacts in the White House, the Office of Management and Budget,

and the commerce and treasury departments.

But Colby replied that the CIA trades employees with other federal agencies and "obviously with respect to our career people we keep records on them."

It is unclear what the purpose of the infiltration was, Kasten told newsmen Wednesday. But he said it was clear the contacts were reporting what they saw back to the CIA. He said the staff found the evidence of the infiltration because there are CIA documents showing there was "a reporting procedure for keeping track of these people."

Rep. Ronald V. Dellums, D-Calif., said

it was clear to him the "intelligence people were planted in high decision-making places in the agencies — and that is frightening."

Kasten and Dellums said there was no indication in the CIA documents whether any president or agency heads knew about the infiltration.

The two congressmen said they disclosed the findings in an effort to show a need to keep the select House committee alive.

Kasten mentioned the CIA infiltration briefly to the House Rules Committee as it considered a resolution to abolish the committee and replace it with a new one.