

Press Section

NOTES AND COMMENT ON THE NEWS

New York Herald Tribune

Intelligence, or the Lack of It?

THE FATE of our nation is in the hands of our intelligence services. If they should sleep while an enemy plots, our very lives are imperiled.

There have been disturbing indications that our Central Intelligence Agency, while not asleep, has not been entirely awake either. A report just released by the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee adds to our uneasiness.

The report recalled that our intelligence did not discover the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba until they secured photographic evidence last October 14—about one month after the Russians began smuggling the missiles.*

This brings us back to a most serious question. Where was our ground intelligence in Cuba between the middle of September and the middle of October? We did not have an answer to the question then, and we still do not have an answer from the Senate subcommittee.

The question is of vital importance because it implies one of two things: either we had no ground intelligence in Cuba or it wasn't worth a cent. Our security had to fall back on aerial reconnaissance, a poor substitute for ground intelligence. We were lucky

*See "While America Slept," The Reader's Digest, March '63.

that our aerial services sounded the alarm in time last October. But we can't assume we'll be lucky every time.

The quality and existence or non-existence of ground intelligence in Cuba are delicate matters which cannot be aired in public. But the Senate investigation points to a breakdown in our intelligence services at a vital point. And this, together with the erroneous "philosophical" assumption that the Russians wouldn't introduce missiles into Cuba and contradictory estimates of the size of the Soviet forces, calls for much more than an investigation. It calls for a public assurance from the President of the United States that the errors have been corrected.

Associated Press

Eyes on Erhard

LUDWIG ERHARD, probable successor to West German Chancellor Adenauer, is wedded to the idea that free competition is the cure for the world's ills. The 66-year-old Erhard sees free competition as the economic counterpart to free political activity. His ideas have cost him friends in the West German business community, where cartels are an old habit.

Erhard has spent most of his life in the study of economics. He had a job in a market-research institute in Nuremberg but had to quit when he got into a fight with the Nazi regime in

Reader's Digest 6/64