

Officials ~~were~~ and the media wore Emperor's Clothes and pretended until the second month of 1975 that Helms and other CIA and FBI witnesses were truthful.

To the perceptive it was immediately apparent that he and others had the intent to deceive and misrepresent, that in an effort to avoid perjury they resorted to semantics, but that there was perjury. They had no choice unless they were prepared to confess misdeeds that in a society like ours are crimes.

Finally, when systematic leaking by those who opposed the wide range of improper and illegal acts that had become the spook way of life created still another scandal and numerous official investigations of the CIA were certain, The WashingtonPost of 2/12/75 carried a front-page story by Lawrence Meyer which began:

"The Justice Department is examining testimony given by former Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard M. Helms before Congressional committees to determine whether he committed perjury, according to informed sources."

~~THAT~~ The story referred to the here-quoted Senate Foreign Relations Committee testimony after which Helms had been recalled for "clarification."

By that time there were so many scandals other same-day headlines in the same paper reported CIA and local police collaborated in domestic intelligence, "Activists Watched By Police," with "activists ^{encompassing} including almost anyone, including ~~xxxx~~ elected officials; "Air Force Admits to Funding CIA," an account of how in the budget almost 800 million dollars appropriated for the CIA was hidden from the American people only; "CIA-Police Tie Kept Secret," an expose of CIA agents having false police credentials for use within the United States, where all CIA domestic and police activity is prohibited by law; "Colson Meets With Rockefeller Pan~~el~~," the Ford whitewash of the CIA headed by Newlson Rockefeller, Ford's appointee as Vice President; "CIA Critic Testifies ~~On~~ On Air Operations," Vactor Marchetti's courtroom testimony on the CIA "as the world's largest airline conglomerate;" "Proxmire Would Open CIA to GAO Scrutiny," A Senator's effort to have some auditing of the way money appropriated for intelligence was spent; and a Jack Anderson column reporting CIA and FBI collaboration with the secret police of the Greek military dictatorship.

Save for details there was nothing new in these stories - except that the press started reporting them. That it did reflected a change in attitudes brought about by The Watergate. These excesses had been well known for years. Officials and the press had joined in keeping them secret and thus perpetuating the abuses and illegalities.