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Rep. Preyer doesn't believe
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CIA interfered with files

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Sixth District Rep. Richardson Preyer today disputed news accounts implying that the Central Intelligence Agency arranged the rifling of sensitive files of the House Assassinations Committee.

The Washington Post this week reported that a CIA employee assigned to guard documents belonging to his agency had entered a committee safe surreptitiously and rifled through gruesome photographs of Kennedy's autopsy. Preyer was chairman of that committee.

"We were never satisfied that someone else wasn't involved," the Post quoted an unnamed "source." The alleged incident took place a year ago. "I think the implications of that arti-

cle, that CIA officials were involved in rifling our files, were wrong," said Preyer this morning.

"It wasn't that sort of situation. This CIA man was not a fulltime CIA employee. He was a contract employee whose duty was really that of a guard, to stand by in the office to see that CIA materials were secure."

The CIA guard's regular fulltime job was as a fireman, Preyer said.

"The only things in the safe when he entered it were the autopsy photographs," Preyer said, denying that the so-called "magic bullet" that wounded both Kennedy and Texas Gov. John B. Connally, reserved for keeping in the same safe, might have been tampered with.

"Apparently the safe was open, also. He didn't break into it," Preyer said. "It seems that out of curiosity he was where he shouldn't have been."

"We, the Assassinations Committee, dismissed him from our premises," Preyer said, "and then the CIA fired him."

Preyer admitted that he hadn't known of the incident until about a month ago, when Washington Post reporter George Lardner asked him for comment.

The full committee's chairman, Rep. Louis Stokes, and its chief counsel, Robert Blakey, were given full authority to handle such "personnel and administrative matters, said Preyer.