

C.I.A. Says It Ousted Officer After a Search Of House Unit's Files

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WASHINGTON, June 17 — A Central Intelligence Agency officer who was assisting a Congressional committee in the investigation of the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy was dismissed after his fingerprints were found on sensitive evidence kept in a committee safe, the C.I.A. acknowledged Sunday.

An agency spokesman, Herbert Hetu, said the officer, Regis T. Blahut, was dismissed last summer shortly after the rifled files were discovered and reported by the House assassinations committee.

Mr. Hetu said that the incident was a case of one man's curiosity and not an instance of C.I.A. spying on a Congressional committee. "It was just a case of poor judgment," he said.

He said that Mr. Blahut's job was to coordinate agency records that the committee needed for its investigation into the assassination.

He refused to elaborate on the reported unauthorized entry into the locked safe, where the committee kept physical evidence of the assassination, including autopsy photos, X-rays and the bullet that wounded both the President and then Governor John B. Connally of Texas.

But a report in Monday's edition of The Washington Post said that Mr. Blahut's fingerprints were found on the safe, and on the photos and other evidence inside it.

The Post article said that nothing had been taken from the files and quoted Mr. Blahut as saying that there was an innocent explanation, although he refused to say what that was. He told the paper that he had signed an oath of secrecy with the agency and could not discuss the incident.

The committee's general counsel, G. Robert Blakey, declined to discuss the matter. "The incident is terminated and I see no reason to comment on it," he said.