

Royce Brier

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On the CIA and Internal Spying

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE may not yet be cognizant of the prostitution of the Central Intelligence Agency, in its use of espionage techniques in domestic affairs.

This incident bears relation to the Watergate panic, but goes directly to the Pentagon Papers case against Daniel Ellsberg, now quashed.

Last week James L. Schlesinger, temporary chief of the CIA (now named Secretary of Defense), said John Ehrlichman, resigned chief of domestic affairs for President Nixon, paved the way for CIA cooperation with E. Howard Hunt who, in 1971, was engaged in espionage on the office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist. Hunt has recently been convicted in the Watergate burglaries.

Mr. Schlesinger, in testimony before a Senate investigating subcommittee, disclosed also that Richard M. Helms, former director of the spy outfit, personally instructed CIA agents to aid in a psychiatric "profile" of Ellsberg during a White House investigation of the Pentagon leaks.

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MR. SCHLESINGER CALLED THIS an "ill-advised act" and a violation of CIA "charter,"



both understatements.

It was a brazen violation of law. A passage in the National Security Act of 1947, provides the CIA agency "shall have no police, subpoena, law enforcement powers or internal security functions." Internal security, espionage and sabotage are a function of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

If CIA chiefs and agents can read, they should understand the meaning of the foregoing statement of the intent of congress in 1947, and the Congress in 1973 should show some interest, too.

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THE MANIFEST FACT is that in this case the CIA was employed as a secret, internal police, earning the name "gestapo," inaccurately applied to the FBI, which is bound by court limitations pursuant to arrest of citizens. The CIA is not.

Excepting in wartime, the United States has never fielded a secret, internal police. But literate Americans are aware of this notorious, despotic device of totalitarian countries across the world — the Soviet Union, and the Hitler and Mussolini dictatorships. In these regimes and in some smaller countries, citizens could be secretly imprisoned indefinitely, often secretly tried, or simply disappear.

But this was also the case with the absolute monarchs of Europe in the 18th century, and the Founding Fathers knew what they were doing when they made no Constitutional provision for such a system, which would meet with revulsion of free Americans.

It would be strange if President Nixon is compelled to issue an unequivocal order to CIA agents to read the 1947 act, and keep their noses out of domestic affairs — again, if they can read.

If they can't, any CIA agent in violation should be summarily fired, then brought to trial for violation of an Act of Congress.

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