

Proxmire Seeks Curbs On the CIA

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Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) proposed a bill yesterday to prohibit the Central Intelligence Agency from engaging in illegal activity within the United States.

The bill also would prohibit the agency from engaging "in foreign covert action" abroad without the written consent of the congressional committees that oversee the CIA.

In a prepared speech, Proxmire said his proposed amendments to the 1947 act that created the CIA were proved necessary by Watergate.

"Is it far-fetched to contemplate the illegal use of the FBI, CIA and the rest of the intelligence community against political opponents or any other faction within the U.S.?" he asked. "That is exactly what has been attempted. . . ."

"I have great admiration for the CIA and its directors. It appears that they have resisted pressures of great intensity from the White House itself. That took a great deal of courage. It is for the sake of the CIA as well as the American people that I offer this amendment."