

Proxmire Cites Own CIA Data

Says Sources Verify Charge Of U.S. Spying

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said yesterday he has information that confirms that the Central Intelligence Agency spied on American citizens in this country, engaged in breaking and entering, and in wiretapping.

The charges that the CIA breached legal prohibitions intended to confine its operations to foreign intelligence, Proxmire said, "are accurate and correct" according to "very reliable people" who are his private sources.

Proxmire said in a television interview (Issues and Answers—ABC, WMAL)—that he independently verified to his satisfaction the allegations initially published by The New York Times on Dec. 22. He said his information confirms that CIA files contain names of 10,000 Americans who "had been under investigation by the CIA," that the agency engaged in domestic "surveillances," in "breaking and entering" and "wiretaps" of Americans.

"I think this is good information," said Proxmire. "What's outrageous about it is . . . this is not part of CIA's responsibility or their legal right. The CIA is responsible for foreign intelligence gathering, primarily."

When the initial charges were aired a week earlier, Proxmire called for the resignation of Richard M. Helms, who was CIA director from 1966 to 1973. This is the period when the alleged domestic spying took place, primarily among opponents of the war in Vietnam. Helms, presently ambassador to Iran, "categorically denied" last week that the CIA, when he headed it, "conducted illegal domestic operations against antiwar activists or dissidents or that any unit to do so was created" during his service as director.

In an additional report yesterday, The New York Times said a former CIA agent, not identified by name, said New York in the late 1960s was a center of spying on radical groups. Agents working for the CIA's Domestic Operations Division, the account said, infiltrated radical organizations and participated in break-ins and wiretapping The

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Times' source said he received from the CIA "more than 40" psychological assessments of radical leaders to assist in surveillance of the targeted groups.

Other sources said yesterday that the CIA had at least two sections operating on the domestic scene: a Domestic Contact Service, until recently relatively "overt" by CIA standards, collecting foreign intelligence from businessmen, students and others traveling abroad, and the clandestine Domestic Operations Division. The latter network was originally established with offices in many cities to collect foreign intelligence inside the United States from emigre groups and other sources and to coordinate CIA "cover" organizations. It allegedly expanded into the activities now under challenge.

This may be the basis for Helms' contention that no unit "was created" for the purpose of spying on antiwar activists and his denial that the CIA "conducted illegal domestic operations" for that purpose. It is the standard CIA contention that nothing it does is illegal, on grounds that it acts only on the basis of authorizations by the President or the National Security Council, as permitted by its charter.

Proxmire said after his television appearance that he has verified "the guts" of the allegations against the CIA, with inadequate resources on his own staff to conduct a total investigation. He said he must keep his own sources confidential.

In his TV appearance, Proxmire called on Congress to establish "an independent prosecutor with subpoena powers" to establish the facts and "prosecute every illegal action by CIA agents past or present." He also called for a joint Senate-House committee to oversee the CIA effectively, and for a ban on all covert CIA operations, "the so-called paramilitary activity, the murders, the kidnaping, that kind of thing; to destabilize, overthrow governments."

Rep. Claude Pepper (D-Fla.) said in Miami yesterday that CIA Director William E. Colby assured him yesterday that there was no foundation to a Time magazine report that Pepper was spied on by the CIA.

That report said that Pepper, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, former Rep. Cornelius Gallagher (D-N.J.) and the late Sen. Edward Long (D-Mo.) all came under CIA scrutiny.

Pepper said Colby telephoned him and said "he was sorry and embarrassed" about the allegation involving him, that Colby had checked CIA files "and he said there was not a single mention of my name." Pepper added that Colby told him he reported the same thing to President Ford, and also to Time magazine prior to its publication.

A CIA spokesman yesterday confirmed Colby's reassurances to Pepper by telephone and telegram, but the spokesman said he did not know whether Colby called the others who were named.

Justice Douglas declined to make any comment yesterday.

Former Rep. Gallagher, who was released from prison last month after serving 17 months for income tax fraud, said he would not be surprised that he was the subject of CIA surveillance because he long attacked such activities by U.S. agencies. Gallagher said, "I am deeply saddened that the Congress was unable to do anything and my alarms went unheeded."

President Ford has said through his spokesman at Vail, Colo., where he is spending the holidays, that he will not make decisions on a 50-page report about the allegations concerning the CIA, submitted by Colby, until he meets with senior officials after his return to Washington on Thursday. The President is scheduled to confer with Colby, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger, and others. Former CIA Director Helms is also expected in Washington at that time.

Not Involved in N.Y., Retired CIA Aide Says

James Angleton, who was described in the initial New York Times allegations as director of CIA domestic activities, claimed that the new account in the Times yesterday shows he was not involved in such operations in the New York area.

Angleton retired as director of CIA's counterintelligence department after the charges were published. In a statement yesterday Angleton said, in part, "I do not desire to state anything further publicly in view of what I regard to be numerous distortions of a sensational nature."

After the bombings and other violent disturbances allegedly committed by the Weathermen, the former agent said, being an undercover agent "got scary."

"Before it was like a game," he added, "but later, if you were blown [identified], you didn't know what the kids would do to you."

He and other undercover men in his unit worked closely together, he said, and even were sent on special out-of-town trips together.