

Inquiry Into the C.I.A.

7 OTHERS CHOSEN

Panel Members Have No Previous Links to the Agency

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 5—

President Ford named today an eight-member commission headed by Vice President Rockefeller to investigate allegations of domestic spying by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, said that the eight had been chosen as respected citizens who had no former connection with the C.I.A. The deadline for their report, he said, is April 4.

President Ford was said to have spoken by telephone last night with each of the appointees.

Background in Intelligence

As chairman of the commission, Mr. Rockefeller is the only member with any direct background in intelligence affairs. He has served since 1969 as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. The board, set up by President Kennedy in the aftermath of the Bay of Pigs episode in Cuba in 1961, theoretically is to provide a high-level civilian review of intelligence programs but its efficacy has been repeatedly challenged in recent years.

The Vice President was described by his press secretary, Hugh Morrow, to be "talent hunting" on the telephone for a director to head the commission's staff.

Mr. Rockefeller, in a statement issued through a spokesman shortly after today's announcement, said: "I accept this assignment from the President with a deep sense of responsibility as to the need for public confidence in our governmental institutions, the vital necessity of preserving our national security and the basic concepts of freedom and human dignity."

The Eight Members

The commission members named by the President are as follows:

John T. Connor, 60 years old, a Democrat who served as Secretary of Commerce in the Johnson Administration. He is chairman and chief executive officer of the Allied Chemical Corporation.

C. Douglas Dillon, 65, a Republican who served as Secretary of the Treasury in the

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Kennedy and Johnson Administrations. He is chairman of the board of Dillon, Read & Co., a Wall Street banking house.

Edwin N. Griswold, 70, a Republican who served as Solicitor General in the Justice Department in the Johnson and Nixon Administrations. He is currently in private practice in Washington.

Gov. Ronald Reagan, 63, of California, a Republican who retires tomorrow after serving eight years in Sacramento.

Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Kennedy Administration who retired in 1969 after serving as supreme allied commander in Europe. He now lives in Washington.

Edgar F. Shannon Jr., 56, a Democrat who retired last year as president of the University of Virginia.

Lane Kirkland, 52, a Democrat who has served in various capacities with the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations since 1948. He is currently secretary-treasurer of the labor organization.

The commission's conclusions and recommendation then will be sent to Congress, where thus far four committees have announced hearings into the C.I.A.

Mr. Nessen said tonight, in response to a query, that he assumed the report would be made public but that the question had not been raised before.

The advocacy of a civilian review board in the current situation by Secretary of State Kissinger, a long-time Rockefeller associate, became known in Washington last week.

Mr. Kissinger and President Ford were reported to have spent much of yesterday discussing the allegations against the CIA and what to do about them. Another participant in those talks, at least briefly, was Richard Helms, the former director of Central Intelligence, who is now Ambassador to Iran.

The New York Times, quoting well-placed sources, reported on Dec. 22 that the CIA conducted massive and illegal domestic spying operations against antiwar radicals and other dissidents in the late nineteen-sixties and early nineteen-seventies, when Mr. Helms was director. Dossiers on nearly 10,000 American citizens were said to have been assembled by the agency, in violation of its 1947 enabling legislation, which, ruled out any internal security functions for the agency.

Other Charges Made

The sources also said that the intelligence agency had conducted illegal break-ins, wiretaps and the surreptitious inspection of mail since the nineteen-fifties inside the United States.

A report submitted 12 days ago by William E. Colby, the present CIA director, is known to have substantiated the basic

accuracy of the charges. Those charges however, have yet to be officially denied or confirmed by the White House.

There was no sign that the Colby report would be publicly released, as White House officials hinted would happen at various times in the last week. Mr. Nessen did say that the report would be supplied to the commission.

Mr. Nessen said that the President did not consider Mr. Rockefeller's close association with Secretary Kissinger nor General Lemnitzer's former role as chairman of the Joint Chiefs to provide a significant conflict of interest.

During his confirmation hearings last year, Mr. Rockefeller defended the general use of covert action by the C.I.A. overseas but said that the agency should not engage in domestic activities that went beyond its charter. He had refused to comment on the allegations of domestic spying.

Complaints by Critics

Critics of the commission generally voiced two complaints in telephone interviews: the political philosophy of its members and their lack of experience in intelligence matters.

One former high-level Government official with long experience in intelligence matters complained that at least some members of the panel were conservatives on foreign affairs issues who knew little of the methods of collecting and evaluating intelligence data.

Another former Government official with an intelligence background said that Mr. Ford should have named somebody "very liberal" because such people were not necessarily opponents of the C.I.A.

Many of the commission members have expressed what were considered "hawkish views during the Vietnam war.

General Lemnitzer, for example, described the Pentagon

Papers in a 1971 newspaper interview as "nothing but a memorandum written by a Joe Blow in the Pentagon." He called the release of the papers "a traitorous act on the part of an individual who didn't know what he was doing to the security of the United States." Dr. Daniel Ellsberg was charged in connection with the release of the papers, a secret Pentagon study of United States involvement in Vietnam.

During legal arguments in 1971 over the publication of these papers by The Times and other newspapers, Mr. Griswold, as the Government's chief attorney, argued that the articles were a threat to the President's powers in foreign affairs.

Defends Army Surveillance

In March, 1972, he argued in the Supreme Court that the Army's domestic surveillance of civilians from 1967 to 1970 violated neither the Constitution nor Federal law.

"What was done, as unwise as it might have been," Mr. Griswold said, "does not violate a statute or the Constitution."

Sam J. Ervin Jr., the former Democratic Senator from North Carolina, contended that the military surveillance was a violation of the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of assembly.

Mr. Kirkland is a longtime labor official who has been active in fighting racial discrimination. He was named

last year to one of the study panels of Mr. Rockefeller's Commission on Critical Choices for Americans, a study group set up after the Vice President resigned as Governor of New York.

Mr. Dillon was named chairman of the board of trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation in 1971. During the nineteen-fifties, while serving as Deputy Under Secretary and Under Secretary of State, Mr. Dillon became known as America's top strategist in international economic affairs.

Opposed Cambodia Action

In 1970, Mr. Connor, expressed shock at President Nixon's decision to send troops into Cambodia. He told a business meeting that the President's decision "shakes the confidence of many Americans in his judgments and intentions.

Also that year, Mr. Shannon, described as a "middle-of-the-road democrat" by associates, issued a statement opposing the war in Southeast Asia and called for reassertion of the Senate's authority in foreign policy. He also attached his name to a petition that was critical of the Cambodian involvement.

Publicly appointed "blue-ribbon" investigating panels have been used at least once in the past to look into alleged domestic activities by the C.I.A.

In 1967, shortly after Ram- parts magazine reported that

the intelligence agency was subsidizing the National Students Association, President Johnson called on Nicholas de B. Katzenbach, the Under Secretary of State; John W. Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and Mr. Helms, then head of the C.I.A., to determine ways of openly subsidizing such activity with funds supplied by different agencies.

Mr. Katzenbach, reached today at his home in New York, praised President Ford's appointment of a similar panel as a step "that makes good sense."

"Obviously, the reason for the inquiry is to head off an open, public hearing in Congress, and I think that's probably good because it [the commission] will conduct hearings on a less partisan basis," Mr. Katzenbach, now a vice president of the International Business Machines Corporation said.

"I think the agency was and I assume still is the most objective analyzer of intelligence that there is on the Washington scene and it's important that it be preserved," he said. Highly partisan Congressional hearings could "end up destroying the C.I.A.'s intelligence integrity and that would be too bad," he said.

"But it's terribly important," Mr. Katzenbach said, "that the people on the commission have the public's confidence."