

*The following are excerpts from Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger's news conference Tuesday.*

Q: Mr. Secretary, two questions relating to your reported remarks yesterday, about the CIA investigation. In alluding to the misdemeanors that you suggested go back—a few of them that go back many years, could you tell us, one, whether you found them still going on when you got there and took action to stop them. And secondly, could you perhaps provide some greater illumination for us as to the scope of these types of activities that are more

A: . . . all bureaucracies have a tendency to stray across the line with regard to actions which particularly in the acute vision represented by 20-20 hindsight would seem to be inappropriate. There were a number of activities that have occurred at the Agency over the course of the lifetime of the Agency that indeed, in retrospect, are to be regretted. They were inappropriate. Whether or not they were illegal is a question that I would prefer to leave to the lawyers. You mentioned the question of the scope, and I think that in relation to historical standards that there were not activities in such number or so surprising as to be a source of national turmoil . . .

Q: At any time did the CIA maintain files, as far as you know, on the order of 10,000 American citizens?

A: The question, I think, is directed to whether or not the CIA inappropriately maintained files on that number of citizens, because files are generated in a variety of ways. They can be generated by overseas activities. The Agency has a responsibility for the gathering of foreign intelligence and where there are contacts between Americans and foreigners overseas, that leads quite appropriately to the generation of information. The question, I think, is directed towards massive surveillance activities in the United States and to the extent that that is tied to 10,000 files, that story is overblown.