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Unaware of Domestic Spying, Angleton Reportedly Testifies

By David C. Martin
Associated Press

Former CIA counterintelligence chief James J. Angleton told the Rockefeller commission yesterday he was kept in the dark about the activities of a secret unit that maintained files on 10,000 American citizens, according to a well-placed source.

The secret unit was headed by Richard Ober, who reported directly to then-CIA Director Richard M. Helms, the source said Angleton testified. When the unit, which was nominally under Angleton's control, was disbanded in March, 1974, Ober was transferred to the staff of the National Security Council without Angleton's knowledge, the ousted counterintelligence chief reportedly testified.

However, Angleton also told the commission that what he has since learned about the activities of the Ober unit does not disturb him and that he considers them entirely proper.

Angleton, who was forced to resign from the agency in December, testified nearly two hours in closed session, but refused to comment to reporters afterward.

Later, he issued a statement saying that the charges of domestic spying originally published by The New York Times were entirely false. In a related development, it

was learned that former White House special counsel Charles W. Colson would testify before the commission staff today.

Colson's scheduled appearance was confirmed yesterday by his attorney, Kenneth L. Adams, who said, "We'll be over there tomorrow answering whatever questions they have to throw at him."

In recent weeks, Colson has made a number of allegations concerning the CIA. They included assertions that it was "inconceivable" the agency "did not know in advance about the Watergate break-in" and that convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. regularly forwarded sealed packages to Helms.

Vice President Rockefeller, chairman of the commission appointed by President Ford to investigate alleged domestic spying by the CIA, would say only that Angleton had been "totally cooperative." But Rockefeller would not even say whether he considered Angleton a key witness in the panel's inquiry.

Rockefeller said Angleton would not appear before the commission again but held open the possibility that he might be questioned further by commission staff.

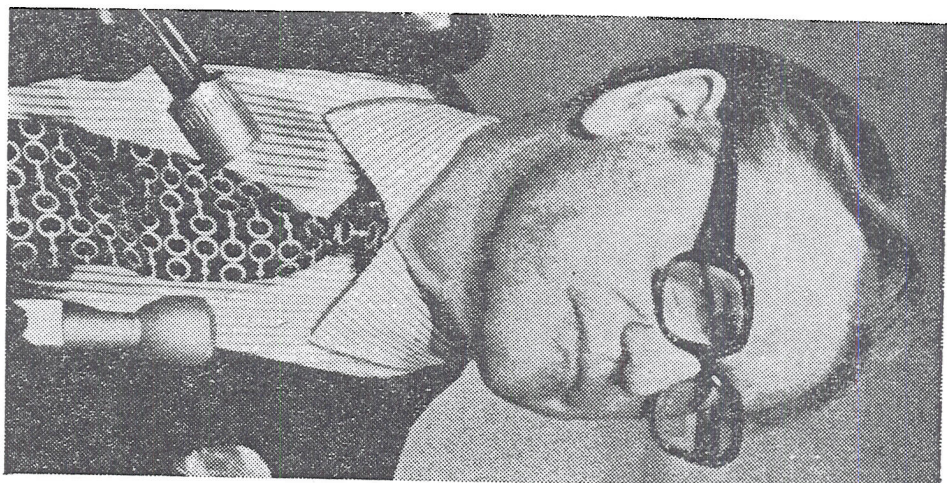
Angleton was accompanied by former aides S. Newton Miller and Raymond G. Roeca, who left the CIA along with him in the wake of allegations that the agency had engaged in domestic spying.

Sources said that sharp policy disagreement with CIA Director William J. Colby had more to do with the abrupt departure of Angleton and his aides than did published reports of domestic surveillance. Miller and Roeca were not questioned by the commission.

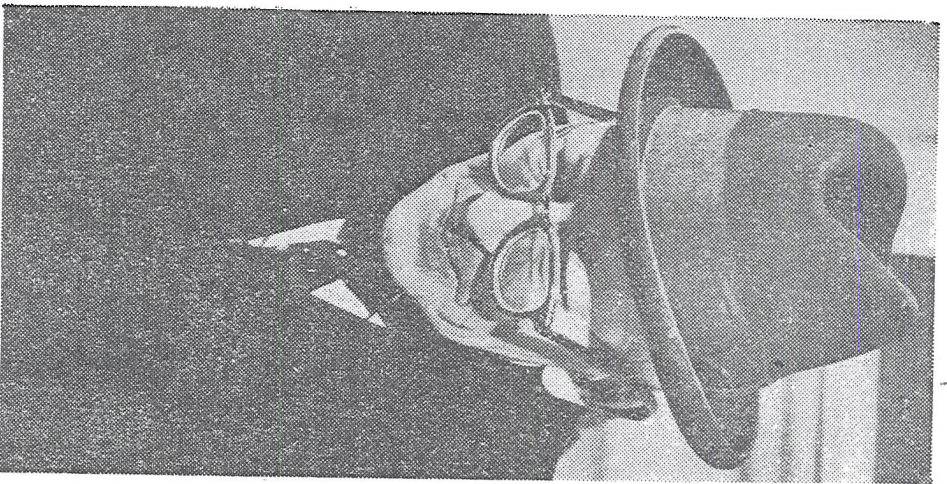
Kerner Health Called Poor

CHICAGO, Feb. 10 (UPI)—Former Illinois Gov. Otto Kerner has suffered four heart attacks since entering a federal prison last July 28 and is "dangerously undernourished," documents filed in federal court today said.

Thomas E. Patton, Kerner's attorney, is seeking a review of his client's three-year prison term imposed by U.S. District Court Judge Robert L. Taylor of Knoxville, Tenn. Kerner and his former state revenue director, Theodore Isaacs, were convicted on charges including bribery, mail fraud and conspiracy in a race-track stock scandal. U.S. Attorney James Thompson has recommended that the two be immediately released. Taylor denied a request to reduce their sentences last July 9.



NEILSON A. ROCKEFELLER
... CIA commission chairman says witness had been "totally cooperative."



By Margaret Thomas—The Washington Post
JAMES J. ANGLETON