

NYTimes Ford Likely to Name Aide in Spy Inquiries

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WASHINGTON, March 20— President Ford is expected to appoint a special assistant in the White House to deal with the proliferating investigations of the United States intelligence community, reliable White House sources have disclosed.

The main responsibility for advising the President on his Administration's response to the growing number of investigations would rest with a Presidential counsel with sub-Cabinet rank, the sources said.

The White House at first considered creating a "virtual czar" over the intelligence community and thus limiting the power of William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence,

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several sources said, but the President settled on handling the matters within the present White House structure.

The leading contender for this crucial assignment is Roderick Hills, chairman of the board of Republic Corporation, a lawyer and husband of Carla Hills, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Liaison Post Also

The White House is also expected to create a second post within the counsel's office to handle day-to-day liaison with Capitol Hill and intelligence agencies.

The leading candidate for this position is James Wilderotter, associate deputy attorney general, a former H.U.D. official.

According to key sources familiar with the Capitol Hill inquiries, the assignment could well determine "the whole atmosphere" of the relations between President Ford and the Congressional investigating committees. "The Senate committee," one source pointed out, "has asked the President to instruct Federal agencies to cooperate fully. The President said he would deal with the requests on a case-by case basis. This is the a man who will carry the ball on each of those cases."

Dealing With Inquiry

An Administration source described the job as one calling for "a diplomat—a man who can sit down with Church and Tower [Senators Frank Church and John G. Tower] and work out what they need."

Another source said that when "push comes to shove, this is the man who will advise the President on whether to comply with the Hill or use his executive privilege."

According to White House



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Roderick Hills, leading contender for post at the White House on inquiries into intelligence work.

sources, the President and his senior aides have been wrestling for weeks with how to deal with increasingly sweeping Congressional investigations. At one point, these sources said, consideration was given to setting up a post that would have virtual command over the intelligence community.

The creation of that job, several sources said, "would have the effect of firing Bill Colby," since under the 1947 law that created the C.I.A., the

director is the senior official of the entire intelligence community. The idea was rejected and the White House began the more difficult task of finding someone to represent the White House in the investigations.

"Whoever gets this job will make a lot of enemies," said one powerful Republican lawyer. "It is a no-win position." In its search the White House is known to have talked to Laurence Silberman, Deputy Attorney General. He turned down the job, these sources said.

Secret Data Sought

The Senate Select Committee, headed by Senator Church, Democrat of Idaho, and Senator Tower, Republican of Texas, has already requested secret data from the White House, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It has also indicated that it would request the transcripts and evidence engendered by the Rockefeller commission's C.I.A. investigation.

At a breakfast with newsmen today, Senator Church declined to suggest that the White House was dragging its feet on his committee's requests. "It's only been a few days," he said, since the requests were made, "and I'm giving them the benefit of the doubt."

Warning by Colby

Mr. Church also hinted to newsmen that he had reason to believe that certain records of the secret 40 Committee, the White House policymaking group on intelligence operations, may not exist. He said he had "heard there are no transcripts" of the group's meetings. He declined to amplify.

In a separate development, Mr. Colby warned that the Congressional investigations had already caused several foreign

agents to refuse to work for the intelligence agency because they feared that disclosures might compromise them.

In an interview published in The Washington Star, the director also said a book written by Philip Agee, a former agent, and publisher in Britain has exposed large portions of the C.I.A.'s operations and put some operatives under the threat of death.

He said it was "absolutely unconscionable and reprehensible" for a former C.I.A. officer to have made these disclosures.

The two men under consideration for the key White House posts on intelligence are both lawyers. Mr. Hills, 44 years old, heads a California-based

firm involved in a wide range of manufacturing and services. He has lectured in law at Harvard and Stanford Universities and has practiced law in California. He is now a White House consultant.

Mr. Hills, in effect, would be replacing Philip Areeda, who recently resigned from the President's staff. If he is appointed, Mr. Hills would technically be outranked by his wife, a Cabinet officer.

Mr. Wilderotter, 30, worked closely with James T. Lynn, former Secretary of H.U.D., before joining the Department of Justice. He has had some responsibilities in the intelligence field in his Justice Department post, White House sources said.