

C.I.A. Watchdog Panels in Congress Indicate

INQUIRIES LIKELY ON STUDENT LINK

It They Are Expected to
be Concerned Only With
How Money Was Used

By JOHN HERBERS

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 — Members of Congress who oversee the Central Intelligence Agency are expected to investigate its subsidies to the National Student Association. There were strong indications, however, that most of those trusted with intelligence agency secrets had known and approved of the subsidies and wanted only to know more about how the money had been used.

Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Senate Majority Leader, called the subsidies a "move toward big brotherism" and proposed that a Senate subcommittee on intelligence conduct an investigation independent of a review under way by the executive branch.

But no such criticism of the subsidies came from those members of Congress who were wary of agency activities over a period of years.

'Tempest in a Teapot'

Senator John Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi who is a member of the Senate Subcommittee on Intelligence, termed the controversy over the subsidies "a tempest in a teapot."

"If you are in the intelligence business you have to go where the information is to find it," Senator Stennis told reporters. Senator Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia who is chairman of the five-member subcommittee, was silent. But Senator Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, said he was confident that Senator Russell would call for an investigation.

Senator Symington, who was recently appointed to the subcommittee, said he wanted more information before deciding whether the intelligence agency had acted improperly.

Senator Stennis said, "I am going to look into it more myself."

A Representative who examines intelligence agency appropriations described the agency as the most candid and cooperative one in the Government with appropriate members of Congress.

"They tell us everything we want to know," he said. "They don't conceal a tenth as much as most agencies."

He acknowledged, however, that this was partly because the agency's testimony was never made public.

Only a few members of Congress have access to the agency's operations.

In the senate, the Russell subcommittee, a division of the Armed Services Committee, was recently enlarged to include as ex-officio members three Senators from the Foreign Relations Committee. One of these is Senator Mansfield.



Associated Press Wirephoto

WOULD SEVER TIES:
Samuel Brown, chairman of National Student Association's supervisory board, tells newsmen the group favors cutting all ties with Central Intelligence Agency.

Most Decline Comment

In the house, subcommittees of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees are entrusted with watching over the intelligence agency.

In both houses, most members of these subcommittees have declined comment on the controversy about the agency's subsidies to educational institutions. But no one has said that he had not been informed of the subsidies.

Yesterday, President Johnson ordered the Acting Secretary of State, Nicholas deB. Katzenbach; the Director of

Central Intelligence, Richard Helms, and the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, John W. Gardner, to review the situation and formulate policy that would prevent any Government agency from damaging the integrity of educational institutions.

Senator Eugene J. McCarthy, Democrat of Minnesota, proposed a select Senate committee to conduct a separate investigation. But Senator Mansfield said the Russell subcommittee should make the study.

The Congressional inquiry, he said, should include foundations that acted as financial conduits for intelligence agency funds.

"It's a poor thing if these foundations knew, and some of the students knew and the United States Senate didn't know of this," the Senator said. "To me it's a move toward big brotherism."

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They Knew of and

Approved Subsidies

In private conversation, some Congressional watchdogs expressed regret only that the agency's connection with student groups had been made public. One agreed with a statement by Allen W. Dulles, former director of the agency, that the student subsidy was justified from the standpoint of national security.

"We obtained what we wanted," said Mr. Dulles, who headed the agency from 1953 to 1961.

Mr. Dulles said that when he assumed the office he had found the link with the student association in effect. At that time, he said, the Communists were making effective use of international student conferences, influencing young people of all countries, including the United States.

'We Stopped Them'

"If we turned back the Communists and made them milder and easier to live with," he said, "it was because we stopped them in certain areas and the student area was one of them."

Senator Gale McGee, Democrat of Wyoming, also defended the subsidies.

"We are striving to survive in a jungle world in which no holds are barred on the part of those with whom we must contend," he told the Senate.

But Senator Ralph W. Yarborough, Democrat of Texas, said he could not believe "the Government argument that if the financial support had been public the credibility of N.S.A. students would have been destroyed on grounds they were agents of the Government."

He introduced a bill to authorize Federal grants to finance travel to international youth conferences.