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WALLACE-NSA (370)

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RALEIGH, N.C., FEB. 18 (AP)-A PROFESSOR WHO HELPED FOUND THE NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION SAID TODAY HE DOES NOT CONDONE THE CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE ORGANIZATION BUT "CAN SEE HOW THIS THING HAPPENED."

DR. JAMES C. WALLACE, WHO NOW TEACHES POLITICAL SCIENCE AT NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, WAS A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL WHEN HE HELPED DRAW ORGANIZATIONAL PLANS FOR NSA IN 1946.

"THE COLD WAR WAS REALLY COLD," WALLACE RECALLED. "RUSSIA WAS MAKING THREATENING GESTURES; NATO HAD BEEN FORMED; THE H-BOMB WAS EXPLODED, AND THE KOREAN WAR WAS GOING ON WHEN THE STUDENTS BEGAN TAKING CIA MONEY FOR THEIR ORGANIZATION.

"THE COLD WAR WAS AT ITS PEAK, AND MCCARTHY WAS IN HIS HEYDAY."

THE FORMER STUDENT LEADER SAID HE "CAN UNDERSTAND, IF NOT CONDONE, THE CIA'S ACTIONS, AND I THINK I CAN MAKE A STRONG CASE FOR THE STUDENTS INVOLVED.

"CRITICS ARE SAYING NOW THAT NSA SHOULD HAVE GONE TO RESPECTABLE PUBLIC SOURCES FOR MONEY, AND I AGREE THAT THE CIA WASN'T THE RIGHT ONE TO GO TO, BUT CONSIDERING 1952 AND 1953, IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO GET MUCH MONEY ANYWHERE ELSE."

WALLACE SAID THE ORGANIZATION WAS TRYING DESPERATELY TO GET MONEY AT THAT TIME, "BUT THEY WERE BEING REJECTED ALL ALONG THE LINE."

IF THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY HAD TRIED TO GIVE THEM FUNDS, "THE PROPOSAL WOULDN'T HAVE STAYED IN USIA'S BUDGET FOR FIVE MINUTES," WALLACE DECLARED.

THE DISCLOSURE THIS WEEK THAT ONLY ONE OR TWO NSA LEADERS A YEAR KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THE CIA INVOLVEMENT IS EVIDENCE TO WALLACE THAT THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAD LITTLE CONTROL OVER THE DEMOCRATICALLY-RUN BODY.

"I THINK IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION WERE DUPED, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IF THEY DIDN'T KNOW THE CIA WAS INVOLVED, THEY STILL ACTED INDEPENDENTLY," HE ADDED.

THE PROFESSOR SAID HE THINKS HIS POINT IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE OBSERVATION THAT FOR EVERY NSA RESOLUTION WHICH AFFIRMED GOVERNMENT POLICY, "THERE WERE AT LEAST TWO AGAINST IT."

HE ADDED THAT THE PEOPLE WHO ARE CRITICIZING THE ORGANIZATION FOR WHAT IT DID "SHOULD HAVE GIVEN IT MONEY WHEN IT WAS THE ONLY ANTI-COMMUNIST STUDENT GROUP IN THE WORLD AND PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. THEN IT WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO GO TO OTHER SOURCES TO KEEP FROM GOING UNDER."