

(480) PERSONALITY IN THE NEWS

RICHARD MCG. HELMS

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WASHINGTON, JUNE 18 (AP)-"I KNOW WE'VE BEEN CRITICISED A LOT," THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SAID TODAY, "BUT I DON'T BELIEVE A LOT OF IT TO BE AT ALL FAIR.

"ALL TOLD, I THINK WE HAVE DONE A FINE JOB OVER THE YEARS."

RICHARD MCG. HELMS, A CAREER MAN WITH CIA SINCE ITS FOUNDING NEARLY 20 YEARS AGO, GAVE THIS APPRAISAL IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW.

COLLEAGUES IN THE NORMALLY SUPERSECRET AGENCY WERE HAPPY TO ADD THEIR WORDS OF PRAISE FOR THE 53-YEAR-OLD FORMER NEWSMAN WHO NOW HEADS ONE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S BIGGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON ANNOUNCED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT RETIRED ADM. WILLIAM F. RABORN, THE POLARIS SUBMARINE DEVELOPER WHO TOOK OVER AS CIA CHIEF FOLLOWING JOHN A. MCCONE'S DEPARTURE A YEAR AGO HAS DECIDED TO GO BACK TO HIS CALIFORNIA HOME.

HELMS WAS RAISED TO CIA'S NO. 2 SPOT UNDER RABORN WITH THE IDEA OF GROOMING HIM FOR THE TOP, \$35,000-A-YEAR JOB WHEN THE ADMIRAL DEPARTED, JOHNSON SAID.

THE 6-FOOT-1-1/2-INCH, BROWN-HAIRED AND BROWN-EYED HELMS IS, IN A SENSE, THE FIRST CAREER INTELLIGENCE MAN TO BE PROMOTED TO THE TOP OF THE CIA. HIS MOST WIDELY KNOWN PREDECESSOR, ALLEN W. DULLES, HAD LONG EXPERIENCE IN INTELLIGENCE WORK, BUT WAS ALSO A LAWYER BEFORE GOING ON THE CIA ROSTER IN 1951.

HELMS, A NATIVE OF SAINT DAVID'S, PA., IN SUBURBAN PHILADELPHIA, GRADUATED FROM WILLIAMS COLLEGE IN 1935 WITH PHI BETA KAPPA HONORS AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDING HIS CLASS PRESIDENCY AND EDITORSHIP OF THE COLLEGE NEWSPAPER.

IN 1935-37 HE WAS A UNITED PRESS CORRESPONDENT, AND FROM 1937 UNTIL 1942 HE WAS NATIONAL ADVERTISING MANAGER FOR THE INDIANAPOLIS, IND., TIMES.

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HIS GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE WORK BEGAN AFTER HE JOINED THE U.S. NAVY IN WORLD WAR II. AS A LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE, HE WENT WITH CIA'S WARTIME PREDECESSOR--THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES-- IN AUGUST 1943.

AFTER HIS NAVY DISCHARGE IN 1946 HE JOINED THE WAR DEPARTMENT'S STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT. FROM THERE HE WENT TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP, WHICH IN 1947 WAS FORMED INTO THE CIA WITH HELMS AS A DEPUTY DIRECTOR.

KNOWN BY ASSOCIATES AS A MAN OF ENERGY AND FAST ACTION-- SOMETHING OF A CONTRAST WITH THE METHODOICAL RABORN--HELMS IS EXPECTED TO MAKE SOME CHANGES IN THE LARGE AGENCY WHICH IS HEADQUARTERED AT NEARBY LANGLEY, VA., AND HAS LINES OUT AROUND THE WORLD.

BUT WHAT CHANGES HE HAS IN MIND, IF ANY, HE IS NOT SAYING AT THIS TIME. GIVEN THE HUSH-HUSH NATURE OF CIA'S OPERATIONS, CHANGES COULD WELL OCCUR WITHOUT ANNOUNCEMENT.

DURING SUCH TIME AS HE GETS OFF, HELMS LIKES TO SPRING ABOUT A TENNIS COURT, GO FOR WALKS AND READ.

AND IF HE SENDS HIMSELF ON AN ASSIGNMENT TO EUROPE HE IS UNLIKELY TO NEED AN INTERPRETER: HIS PARENTS PUT HIM IN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND AND GERMANY AS A YOUNGSTER, GIVING HIM A GOOD GRASP OF FRENCH AND GERMAN.

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