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Checking on the C.I.A.

To the Editor:

On the May 17 Op-Ed page, Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, identified by The Times as a "high-ranking official of the C.I.A. from 1947 to 1965," made the incredible statement that "in my opinion the Congress has done a good job of checking on C.I.A. activities."

Mr. Kirkpatrick made this statement after conceding that the Watergate scandals have re-emphasized the necessity of "tight controls" by Congress over "all intelligence activities."

In early 1971 I and others supported a move on the floor of the House to delete all funding for the C.I.A. from a massive military appropriation bill under discussion. The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Representative F. Edward Hebert, stated that only he and the ranking minority member knew how much money for the C.I.A. was contained in the bill on the floor. Mr. Hebert pleaded with the House not to vote favorably on the amendment and promised that he would set up a special subcommittee on the C.I.A. The amendment failed to carry and Mr. Hebert appointed a subcommittee on the C.I.A. under the chairmanship of the able and distinguished Representative Lucien Nedzi of Michigan.

Despite Mr. Nedzi's best efforts, no one in the Congress yet knows how much money the C.I.A. spends or how it expends the amounts allotted.

In view of this appalling situation, I find it astonishing that Mr. Kirkpatrick could state that "the Congress has done a good job of checking on C.I.A. activities."

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Washington, May 29, 1973