

SEP 13 1975

3, 1975 NYTimes

**C.I.A. AIDES HELD
LIABLE FOR CRIMES**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (UPI)

The Justice Department has ruled that whatever immunity they may have enjoyed in the past, Central Intelligence Agency employees will henceforth be subject to Federal prosecution for criminal offenses just as any Federal employe, Senator Charles H. Percy said yesterday.

The Illinois Republican said he had received a letter from the Justice Department signed by Assistant Attorney General Richard L. Thornburg stating:

"The Central Intelligence Agency is now, therefore, unquestionably bound by the same requirements as other executive branch departments and agencies with respect to referral of allegations of Title 18, U. S. [criminal] code, on the part of its officers and employes."

Mr. Percy said that the policy statement, approved by Attorney General Edward H. Levi, put an end to a recently revealed 1954 secret agreement between the C.I.A. and the Justice Department whereby the agency handled investigations into criminal offenses of its own employes and their disposition.

C.I.A. officials in earlier hearings argued that although intelligence operations were not involved in crimes ranging from theft of Government property to embezzlement, the intelligence duties of the offenders might have been compromised in an open trial.