

A SHIFT REPORTED IN SURVEILLANCE

Senators Hear Justice Unit
Takes Over From Army

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—A former captain of military intelligence asserted today that an intelligence unit in the Justice Department had supplanted an Army counter-intelligence detachment as the Government's principal watchdog on political protest.

Christopher H. Pyle, who has spent 18 months investigating political surveillance in America, also disclosed evidence that Army intelligence groups were continuing to collect political information despite strict Pentagon orders against such operations.

Mr. Pyle was one of seven former military intelligence



Associated Press

Representative Abner J. Mikva, Illinois Democrat said to have been subject of spying, urged ouster of network commanders.

agents who testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, confirming earlier reports of Army domestic intelligence activity and throwing fresh light on the operation known as Conus Intel, or Continental United States Intelligence.

Representatives of the Army are scheduled to appear next week before the subcommittee,

headed by Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina. The subcommittee is conducting hearings on the pervasive collection, collation and dissemination of information with sophisticated technology, particularly computers.

'Apparatus' Is Described

Mr. Pyle testified, "The United States today possesses the intelligence apparatus of a police state. This apparatus is not something of the future; it exists today as a loose coalition of Federal, state, municipal and military agencies."

"Political archives are now kept by municipal police, state police, the National Guard, Subversive Activities Control Boards, internal security committees, each of the armed services, the Civil Service Commission, the Secret Service, the F.B.I., the Passport Office and the Justice Department," he declared.

The Justice Department's interdivisional information unit, which was established about three years ago, formerly duplicated much of the work of the Army's counter-intelligence analysis detachment. Mr. Pyle said it had become "the Government's headquarters for civil disturbance and political protest information."

A spokesman for the Justice Department generally confirmed Mr. Pyle's testimony but contended that it had been overly dramatized.

Big Computer Used

Mr. Pyle said that the Justice intelligence unit maintained a large computer into which was fed information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the 93 United States Attorneys around the country and other Government agencies.

From this, he said, weekly descriptions of potential civil disorders and other political information are printed, bound into books and analyzed, extracts are forwarded to the department's Community Relations Service, Civil Rights Division and Criminal Division.

In addition, Mr. Pyle said, the computer stores "information on the membership, ideology and plans" of any organization that intends to hold a demonstration or rally.

Mr. Pyle, who first brought the Army's domestic intelligence operation to public attention a year ago, said that some military intelligence groups, particularly the 113th, with headquarters at Fort Sheridan, Ill., continued to collect political information at least through last November. Orders to cease such operations went out last June.

He cited information from agents saying that files on individuals, which are forbidden, were being hidden in organizational files, some of which are permitted. He also displayed copies of reports of political information being collected at the University of Wisconsin and an intelligence summary, put out by the Minnesota National Guard, that referred to the 113th as a source.