

NYTimes

JUL 9 1971

5

Colonel's List of Alleged Reds Given to Eastland by Pentagon

See this file 7 Sep 71,
Richard Halloran, NYTimes.

WASHINGTON, July 8 (AP)—A private dossier on alleged Communists and subversives—kept for 23 years by a retired Army colonel and his wife—has been turned over to Senator James O. Eastland by the Pentagon.

The Van Deman papers, named for Ralph Van Deman, the colonel, who was once chief of Army intelligence, were in Army hands from 1952 until last March. Then Senator Eastland, a Mississippi Democrat, asked for and got the files for the internal security subcommittee that he heads. The files are said to contain the names of as many as 250,000 individuals and organizations.

J. Fred Buzhardt, Defense Department general counsel, disclosed in a June 10 letter to Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, that the Pentagon had the files. Mr. Ervin's subcommittee on constitutional rights made copies of Mr. Buzhardt's letter available.

Mr. Buzhardt said in an interview that the files had been kept separate from military intelligence gathered through normal military procedures. "They were not the type of thing that could be integrated," he said.

Mr. Buzhardt, who said he had never personally seen the material, told a reporter that the Pentagon had turned over all of the papers to Mr. Eastland, totally purging the Defense Department of the information. He said that the department would have had to get rid of the material anyway under a directive issued last winter by Melvin A. Laird, the Secretary of Defense.

"The policy is the department will not collect or store

information on people not affiliated with the Department of Defense. Period. This was as good a way to get rid of them as any," he said.

Asked why the Pentagon retained the papers until March—several weeks after Mr. Laird's directive—Mr. Buzhardt reiterated that he had not known of the papers' existence.

Colonel Van Deman retired from the Army in 1929. He settled in San Diego, where he and his wife compiled information on persons they suspected of being Communists or Communist sympathizers.

Papers Held by 6th Army

Colonel Van Deman died in 1952 and, according to Mr. Buzhardt's letter, the United States Sixth Army, with headquarters in San Francisco, assumed custody of at least some of Van Deman's files. Mr. Buzhardt said that there was a possibility that Colonel Van Deman had made prior arrangements for the Army to take the material upon his death.

Mr. Buzhardt said today, however, that it was not official policy for the Defense Department to accept such privately developed information.

After Colonel Van Deman's death some files were moved from his home to the California National Guard Armory in San Diego. The Senate Judiciary Committee of California ordered an investigation to determine "who owns the files and why they were housed in a public building."

In a lawsuit filed by the Research Library, seeking return of the files, there was testimony that the names had been used to screen applicants and appointees to state jobs.