

From end of story by Nicholas M. Horrocks, "Levi to Ask Ruth to Stay in Office":

William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence, told a House subcommittee [unnamed in story] that the C.I.A. opened 68,000 letters between 1967 and 1972 as part of a five-city espionage and counterespionage project. He said that there were no figures on how many letters were opened during the entire 20 years that the C.I.A. delved into the United States mails.

He said that the exterior of 227,000 were photocopied for information on the outside. He said again today that the mail openings were improper and had been discontinued.

He refused, however, to characterize the C.I.A.'s actions as illegal. He said that the facts had been turned over to the Justice Department, and the determination would be made there.

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