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Overhaul of CIA Urged by Senator

UPI

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the Senate's Central Intelligence Agency watchdog panel said today that recent disclosures have so damaged CIA effectiveness President Johnson should consider reorganizing it.

"In view of this spate of confessions or revelations — whatever you want to call them — by people who had supposedly been sworn to secrecy, it might be helpful even if you did no more than change the name," said Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga.

The Georgia Democrat, who is chairman of the Senate armed Services Committee, heads a combined Armed Services-Appropriations Subcommittee that rides herd on the CIA. He referred to the published statements of former CIA officials as well as to the widely publicized disclosures of CIA aid to student and labor groups.

The senator's comments, underscoring a widely shared concern in the government's intelligence community, were made as the CIA subcommittee scheduled one of its regular closed-door briefing sessions with CIA Director Richard M. Helms.

"In my opinion," Russell told UPI, "the Executive branch of the government might consider whether they would want to recommend some sort of reorganization."

Russell said he had no particular format in mind for a revamped CIA and commented that some central agency is needed now — as it was in

1949 — to coordinate U.S. intelligence activities.

The senator showed little enthusiasm for one type of reorganization which has long been proposed by CIA critics — to divorce other covert activities abroad from the gathering of intelligence. He said some other agency would have to do such undercover operations if CIA did not do them.

"It seems to me that they are so closely related that they ought to be in the same agency," Russell said.

In a separate interview, Sen. Milton R. Young, R-N.D., said he shared the belief that "the effectiveness — and the reputation of the CIA have been impaired." He suggested however, that "no doubt some good has been accomplished," over the long haul, by the aftermath of the CIA disclosures.

"Now CIA can be divested of some of these programs that they have been saddled with by other government agencies," said Young, who is the senior GOP member of the CIA subcommittee.