

Top Level Counterspies Quit CIA

By Seymour M. Hersh
 New York Times

Washington

Three more high-ranking officials of the Central Intelligence Agency resigned last week in a major shakeup of the agency's counterintelligence division, well-informed government sources said yesterday.

Their resignation, officially to take place at the close of the year tomorrow, came within a week of that of James Angleton, the long-time CIA counterintelligence chief who has been linked to widescale domestic spying in disclosures reported by the New York Times.

The government sources said the newly retired officials, whose resignations were accepted without objection by William Colby, director of central intelligence, are Raymond Rocca, Angleton's chief deputy; William Hood, executive officer of the Counterintelligence Division, and Newton Miller, chief of operations.

In a related development, Senator William Proxmire (Dem-Wis.) said yesterday that he had received independent verification of the allegations of CIA domestic spying that were initially published December 22 in the Times. There has been no official denial or confirmation of the Times' account by the Ford administration.

"I can say on the basis of the information I have and I think it is very good information," Proxmire said on "Issues and Answers," the ABC-TV interview show, "that the stories and the allegations in the New York Times about the file of 10,000 names of people who had been under investigation by the CIA, about the surveillance, about the breaking and entering and about wiretaps, that those are accurate and correct."

On December 22, the Times quoted well-placed government sources as saying that the intelligence agency had violated its charter during the late 1960s by mounting a massive, illegal intelligence operation against the anti-war move-

From Page 1

ment and other dissident groups in the United States. Intelligence files on at least 10,000 American civilians were compiled, the sources said.

In yesterday's edition, the Times also quoted a former undercover CIA agent as saying that much of the spying against radicals had been conducted by members of the highly secret Domestic Operations Division of the agency.

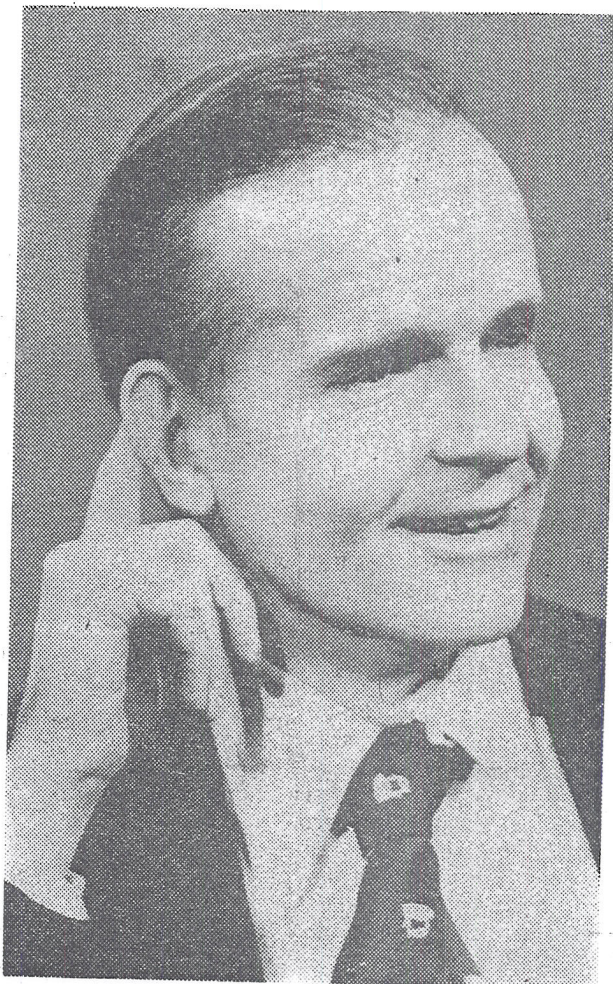
Authoritative intelligence sources acknowledged in interviews yesterday that Angleton's Counterintelligence Division had played a separate role from that of the Domestic Operations Division. But both divisions, the sources said, were determined during a review last year to have operated illegally inside the United States.

It could not be learned whether Colby has initiated any punitive steps against officials of the Domestic Operations Division, which has offices in more than a dozen cities in the United States.

Government sources did say, however, that the sudden resignation of the three remaining top deputies of the Counterintelligence Division was a direct result of Colby's decision not to promote any of them after Angleton's resignation.

In addition, it was learned that Colby had informed the men, each of whom had careers with the agency spanning more than two decades, that they were being transferred from counterintelligence work — a decision of the CIA chief apparently made only after the public accounts of illegal CIA domestic activity.

All three men, and Angleton as well, are known to believe that the United States has lost the incentive and initiative in its efforts to combat Soviet intelligence efforts. They are also known to believe that agents of the KGB, the Soviet secret intelligence service, have found it easier to penetrate and



CPI Telephoto

SEN. PROXMIRE ON 'ISSUES AND ANSWERS'
 'I think it is very good information'

work against American society.

In a brief telephone interview yesterday, Miller confirmed that he had resigned from the CIA, but denied that his action was related to the current furor over domestic spying.

"There are a lot of other people retiring now, he said, "because there's a good available financial advance."

By retiring before December 31, the three officials could increase their pensions by roughly seven per cent a year.

Asked whether he was concerned about foreign espionage, Miller said, "There's a very real need for concern, but I don't think people are going to heed it. I don't think they want to heed it."

The State Department's biographic register lists

Miller as being 48 years old and a native of Iowa who served with the CIA in Bangkok and Addis Ababa.

Rocca, reached by telephone at his home, refused to comment on his retirement. No listing could be found for him in recent editions of the biographic register.

Hood could not be reached yesterday. He is described in the register as being 54 years old and a native of Maine who did CIA work in Vienna, Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt and Bern.

One intelligence official characterized Miller, Rocca and Hood as feeling maligned by the recent newspaper accounts of domestic spying. In particular, the official said, the men are known to believe that much more spying and other illegal activity was conducted by the Domestic Operations Division than by the agents

in counterintelligence, who were said to have concentrated more on keeping track of Soviet and other foreign espionage personnel.

The precise relationship between the Domestic Operations Division of the agency and the Counterintelligence Division — as far as domestic spying was concerned — could not be immediately determined. Both divisions are part of the agency's clandestine services, the so-called "dirty tricks" department which normally concerns itself only with foreign operations.

In his television interview, Proxmire urged that Congress establish an independent special prosecutor with subpoena powers "who will prosecute every illegal action by CIA agents, past or present."

The senator criticized the Ford administration's decision to permit Colby himself, as CIA director, to investigate the charges of domestic spying. The White House is expected to make a statement this week on a 50-page report which Colby submitted last week to the President on his work-ski vacation at Vail, Colo.

In a separate television interview yesterday in New York, Senator Clifford Case, (Rep.-N.J.) said he thought that Richard Helms, the former CIA director who is now ambassador to Iran, lied when he told a Senate committee last year that the agency was not involved in domestic spying.

"I'm afraid it's par for the course," Case said.

Helms, who has categorically denied that the CIA conducted any illegal domestic intelligence during his tenure, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in February, 1973, that he could not "recall" ever receiving White House pressure to become involved in domestic spying.

Subsequently released documents showed that Helms had been an active participant in an elaborate White House plan in 1970, the so-called Huston Plan, to increase surveillance of radicals and other dissidents.