

# Rockefeller Pledges Full CIA Probe

By William Greider  
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The presidential commission investigating charges of domestic spying by the Central Intelligence Agency began its work yesterday with a promise from its chairman, Vice President Rockefeller, that "we are going to get to the bottom of this problem."

The eight commission members spent more than six hours in private briefings, listening to CIA Director William F. Colby and his two predecessors, Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger and U.S. Ambassador to Iran Richard M. Helms, the three men in command of the secret agency for most of the past decade.

Nothing of substance was disclosed about their testimony, but Schlesinger told reporters in the Executive Office Building corridor that CIA domestic abuses over the last generation were no more than a small number of "misdemeanors."

"Overall," Schlesinger said, "one must recognize that these bear on the entire history of the Central Intelligence Agency over a period in excess of 20 years and one must recognize that the number of misdemeanors in that period is, I think, quite small."

The domestic activities in question first surfaced, he said, during the CIA's internal investigation of its role in the Watergate affair, an

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inquiry he ordered in 1973 when he was director.

The three CIA chiefs who appeared before Rockefeller's commission yesterday were not required to testify under oath but they did sign an interrogation waiver, yielding their Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination, a step that would allow the government to use any of the transcribed testimony in any prosecutions which might develop from the controversy.

Colby, the incumbent director who also served under Schlesinger as executive director of the agency, appeared first and delivered back-up material expanding on his 50-page report to President Ford.

He was joined after lunch by Schlesinger, then the commission heard separately from Helms late in the afternoon. All eight commission members attended, but former California Gov. Ronald Reagan excused himself in mid-afternoon to go to another appointment.

Rockefeller told a news briefing that the commission will meet again next Monday and, as staff investigators gather material, it will begin meeting for several days at a time. "We've been asked to do it in three months and we'll do it in three months," the Vice President said.

At present, Rockefeller expects to hire a staff of seven investigators plus the executive director, David Belin, an Iowa lawyer who served as a staff counsel for the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy 10 years ago.

Belin was present for yesterday's initial meeting but he had to leave the room during much of the discussion because he has not yet been certified for "top secret" clearance. The eight commission

members were all cleared last week and Belin's clearance is expected to be final Wednesday, when his appointment will be announced.

In the meantime, the Vice President is being aided temporarily by his counsel, Peter Wallison, and by another lawyer, Ronald Greene from the firm of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering, employed temporarily as an investigator because he has "top secret" clearance from his former job as a Pentagon official.

Hugh Morrow, the Vice President's press secretary, said the commission's budget figure is \$150,000 from the President's contingency fund.

At the news briefing, Rockefeller said the commission also intends to hear from two other former CIA directors, John McCone and Adm. William Raborn, but it has no plans at this point to call Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

Kissinger is chairman of the 40 Committee, the White House committee which oversees covert activities of the intelligence agency.

"If there's any reason to bring in anyone from the 40 Committee, if there's any evidence that we need to question them on, we'll call them," Rockefeller said.

The Vice President said various members of the commission have already been approached by individuals offering information on past CIA abuses and the staff investigators will interrogate these sources and others. But Rockefeller said the limitations of time and staff would not permit a broad-ranging search for evidence among former intelligence officers.

"We certainly would not preclude any issues," he said, "but to go out with a dragnet at this time, I don't think we're capable of coping with it."

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