

'Outsiders' Busy Peering at CIA

Washington

One day last week eight "outsiders" entered CIA headquarters in suburban Langley, Va., and spent the day poring over the spy agency's files, reading computer printouts and questioning the staff.

Three months ago such an "invasion" would have been unheard of. Now it's an almost daily occurrence as the eight — all lawyers who are the investigating staff of the Rockefeller Commission — go about their presidential mission of determining whether the CIA spied illegally on Americans.

"Sometimes you have problems that arise that have to be worked out," said David W. Belin, executive director of the commission, in an interview. "On the whole they've been very cooperative."

Belin, working his staff a 60-hour week because of the time restraints, refused to discuss the commission's findings so far.

Belin has divided his eight investigators into four two-man teams. Each con-

centrates on a special area or group of areas. He said most of their time is being spent at the once-secret Langley headquarters interviewing CIA personnel and examining "printouts, reports, files, that sort of thing."

While not commenting on the specifics of the probe, Belin said:

- The commission is investigating not only charges of illegal spying by the CIA but also "improper activities" such as giving spy gear to Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt for use in the Ellsberg burglary.

- Under President Ford's order the commission will refer any illegalities found to the Justice Department for possible prosecution.

- There is no evidence yet to indicate the CIA has destroyed any of its files on domestic spying, but Belin added: "I don't preclude that possibility because I'm a skeptic by nature." He said there were ways other than files to check out possible illegal activity such as the testimony of past and present CIA agents.

United Press