

APR 18 1975

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APR 18 1975 NYTimes**Mr. Ford and the C.I.A.**

To the Editor:

In his April 10 address to Congress, the President decried "sensationalized public debate" about "legitimate intelligence activities." Having followed this debate with great care, I am puzzled by the President's concern.

Clearly, the debate has centered not on legitimate intelligence activities but on actions of the intelligence establishment that are either of dubious legitimacy or are patently illegal. Legiti-

macy indeed is at the heart of the issue. The President also calls for a hurry-up investigation of the nature and functions of the U.S. intelligence system. I believe that speed here will be unwise. The matter demands patient and conscientious study, long overdue, by the various groups that are now investigating U.S. intelligence activities.

HARRY HOWE RANSOM
Washington, April 11, 1975

The writer is author of "The Intelligence Establishment."