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CIA Rifling Of Senators' Files Told

From News Dispatches

CIA agents broke into the offices of the late Sens. Joseph McCarthy and Robert Kerr to gain access to their files during the early 1950s, Penthouse magazine reported yesterday.

A story by free-lance writer Tad Szulc, a former New York Times correspondent, identified McCarthy and Kerr, along with Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) as three of the four members of Congress on whom the CIA has acknowledged keeping files.

Rep. Bella S. Abzug (D-N.Y.) already has been identified as the subject of a CIA file.

Szulc said files in the offices of McCarthy, a Wisconsin Republican, and Kerr, an Oklahoma Democrat, were photographed during break-ins and presumably still are being kept.

"In McCarthy's case, the CIA was especially interested in the private sources that fed him the information to conduct his witchhunt," Szulc's article said. "The agency evidently didn't like the idea of Joe McCarthy knowing something that the CIA's chiefs didn't know."

Kerr was highly active in worldwide oil operations, particularly in the Middle East, the article said. "Oil intelligence was as crucial to the CIA 20 years ago as it is today."

Szulc said his sources did not know why the CIA maintained a file on Humphrey or what it contained.

The CIA was involved in the coup that overthrew the Malagasy Republic government and in February, according to the article.

The CIA, Szulc said, has ties to the Mobile Police Group, which killed Malagasy President Richard Ratsimandrava Feb. 11. He said U.S. and CIA interest in Madagascar lay in getting military facilities at a former French base on the Indian Ocean near the entrance to the Persian Gulf.

Similar story, SFC 7 May 75, filed CIA (A) (6)