

3FChronicle
JUL 8 1975
**'CIA' Airline
Carried
Many VIPs**

Washington

Authoritative intelligence sources said yesterday that members of Congress, two vice presidents and others had flown chartered flights on a Washington-based airline, unaware that the line was owned and operated by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Among those who used the airline were Hubert Humphrey, Robert F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, the sources said.

"It means that CIA had an unusual entree into personal and campaign travel of some

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of the most important political figures in the country," one source said.

"It could learn where they flew, with whom they traveled and if the agency wanted to, it could record or get an employee to listen to what was said."

Over a number of years, these sources said, the air charter service flew "at least a dozen" members of Congress and, in two instances, carried vice presidents while in office.

At one point the organization was routinely chartered by the Democratic National Committee and at another by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, the sources said.

Apparently the politicians and political groups paid full charter rates for the flights.

The air service, called the Fairways Corp., operates out of a small, plain office in the General Aviation Center at Washington's National Airport.

Its president and chief pilot, Charles W. Bing, 51, denied that the airline is owned by the intelligence agency.

NYTimes same date, longer story, filed CIA.

"The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is known to be investigating Fairways, along with several other C.I.A. 'proprietaries.'"

He said it is owned by a group of former residents of Lynchburg, Va., who are now "scattered across the country."

He declined to name them.

Bing added, however, that the airline has a major charter contract from the Department of the Navy and often carries passengers in "Army or Navy uniforms" or officers in civilian clothes who might be involved with the CIA.

He said he could not rule out that the agency is connected with the contract.

Intelligence sources said that the airline was secretly created by the CIA more than 20 years ago to act as an "executive airline" for the agency's officials and to carry out secret domestic missions where commercial or other charter carriers would jeopardize secrecy.

One source familiar with the operation said that the airline flies "regular runs" to a secret location in North Carolina that the agency maintains to care for its operatives who have had nervous breakdowns or other emotional problems.

The airline also makes flights to a secret training base of the agency at Camp Peary, Va., and to "numerous" other secret locations around the country, the source said.

Throughout the years, Fairways has attempted to "cover" its status as a CIA "proprietary" airline by posing as a private air charter company and signing up regular air charter passengers. It carries business executives, basketball players, private groups and politicians.

It was the political charters, however, that raised the concern of several intelligence officials.

New York Times