

# Clifford Urges Limit To CIA Activities

By William Greider

Washington Post Staff Writer

Former Defense Secretary and presidential adviser Clark Clifford asserted yesterday that "covert operations" in foreign countries should be taken away from the Central Intelligence Agency so the CIA would do nothing more than collect intelligence.

Clifford, addressing a breakfast meeting of reporters, suggested that a new and separate agency could be established to handle "dirty tricks" aimed at foreign governments. Congress, he suggested, should establish a joint committee to oversee these intelligence activities and to approve "covert actions" in advance.

Clifford, who served for many years on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, outlined a number of other steps which he regards as necessary reforms.

"The CIA has just wheeled separately with nobody watching," Clifford said. "It could have gone on and on . . . Just think—for 30 years nobody has controlled it."

Clifford suggested that Congress enact new authorizing legislation which would define more strictly the CIA's functions, including a blanket prohibition against any domestic activities. "I know of no important domestic function that the CIA need have," he said.

The White House, Clifford said, should appoint a staff officer who is responsible for all intelligence agencies to tighten presidential control but he suggested that tougher congressional oversight is the reform which would make the most difference.

"In my personal experience, dealing with some of the top men, Sen. (Richard B.) Russell and Sen. (Leverett) Saltonstall, it was very clear," Clifford recalled, "that they did not want to know what was going and said as much."

Meanwhile, CIA Deputy Director Vernon Walters told a luncheon meeting of the American Security Council that any new congressional guidelines for the CIA should be flexible.

"We are being called up and investigated now for what we did or what we allegedly did," Walters said. "What I fear is that in 1990 Mr. Colby's successor will be called up and investigated for what we failed to do."

Public attitudes change over time, he noted, so that the congressional guidelines drawn now to prohibit what the public dislikes might be too rigid to meet some fu-

ture contingency when attitudes change.

"We've spent an enormous amount of time rummaging through the garbage bins of history, poring over the 1950s and 1960s," Walters said. "But the question of whether we survive as a free nation is going to be decided in the '70s and '80s."

Walters complained about people whom he described as "American Wrongers" who are anxious to find fault with everything the United States does while apologizing for its adversaries. The current atmosphere of criticism aimed at the CIA, he said, includes "a torrent of accusation and mud and innuendo" which unfairly smears loyal CIA employees who are continuing to do an effective job, despite the attacks.

Clifford told reporters that the current exposure of CIA and FBI activities, such as domestic spying and burglaries, will help restore constitutional government.

"Mr. Hoover, I'm sure did not believe in our form of government," Clifford said. "I've thought that for a long time. He violated the First Amendment and he violated the Fourth Amendment."