

C.I.A. (D)

Controversial Reporter

Daniel Louis Schorr

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By MARTIN ARNOLD

Daniel Schorr, the CBS newsman who gave a House intelligence report to a newspaper and thus touched off a Congressional investigation that began this week, is a tough-minded reporter who has been raising troublesome and, to some, embarrassing questions since he started his journalistic career. This has made him the center of more than one controversy with Government officials and his employers.

It was Daniel Schorr, for instance, who became embroiled in a bitter dispute with Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona when Mr. Goldwater became the Republican Presidential nominee in 1964.

It was Daniel Schorr who, not many years later, found himself being investigated by the Nixon Administration after he questioned the Administration's social and economic programs and the wisdom of re-electing Mr. Nixon. The public uproar over the investigation of Mr. Schorr by the Federal Bureau of Investigation gave him national prominence as a newsman.

And it was Daniel Schorr who, when the House voted not to release the report of its intelligence committee, felt compelled to turn the document over to The Village Voice.

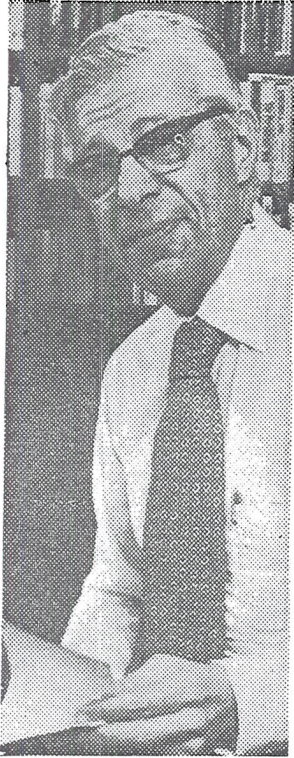
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"I could not be the one responsible for suppressing the report," he said.

Yesterday, at the request of Congress, the F.B.I. detailed agents to the House Ethics Committee to investigate the leak. Meanwhile, the House Republican leadership and 13 liberal Democratic Congressmen demanded an end to any investigation of Mr. Schorr.

Both admirers and detractors agree that Daniel Schorr is arrogant and egocentric. He is a reporter driven to uncover the exclusive story, and in the clubby atmosphere of Washington journalism this has made him somewhat unpopular with a number of his colleagues.

Still, there are reporters who consider Mr. Schorr to be among the brightest and most aggressive journalists on the scene.



The New York Times
Daniel Schorr at the office of his attorney in Washington this week.

Viewed as One of the Best

"Having competed with him, I have nothing but the utmost respect for his integrity and his ability," said Seymour Hersh of The New York Times.

Others have called Mr. Schorr one of the two best investigative reporters in television. They usually list Mike Wallace as the other.

Certainly Mr. Schorr is one of the most outspoken members of the journalistic community, and because of this he has been in trouble with his superiors at CBS more than once.

Last spring, for instance, Mr. Schorr angered network executives by telling a group of students at Duke University that a CBS official had quietly passed the word to "go easy" on President Nixon on the day the President announced his intention to resign. CBS denied the story.

Mr. Schorr was almost discharged in July 1964 by Fred W. Friendly, then president of CBS News and now a Ford Foundation television consultant and a faculty member of the Columbia School of Journalism.

During the 1964 Republican convention in San Francisco, Mr. Schorr, reporting from his CBS post in West Germany, said that Senator Goldwater, the nominee, would visit Bavaria after the convention. That area had a reputation as a center of extreme rightwing politics.

Mr. Goldwater vehemently denied the report and demanded a retraction.

Mr. Friendly, convinced that Mr. Schorr lacked sufficient evidence to support the report called a meeting of CBS executives and announced his intention to discharge Mr. Schorr. Two of the executives agreed with the proposed dismissal. One did not. He was Herbert Mitgang, then executive editor of CBS News, now a member of the editorial board of The New York Times. Mr. Schorr was not discharged.

Mr. Schorr's history of being involved in controversy perhaps accounted for the somewhat chilly conclusion of CBS's statement Monday, when it announced that, he was being relieved of his reporting duties:

"We shall postpone further CBS News action relating to Mr. Schorr until all Government proceedings have been resolved."

Mr. Schorr insists that he was right in supplying the House intelligence report to a newspaper, if this was the only way the full report could be made public. He points out that he gave the report away only after CBS used as much of the material

as it wanted on its radio and television news programs.

"I held up the report in my hand more than once and showed it on television," Mr. Schorr says, "and nothing happened."

Now he sees himself the victim of a new security mood in the country.

"There have always been in our country two great urges—one toward security, one toward liberty," he said. "The pendulum constantly swings between them. Security always comes back. And the pendulum appears to have started its return course. . . . I got hit by a swinging pendulum."

Since the controversy began, Mr. Schorr says, he has had to change his telephone to an unlisted number the first time in his news-gathering career, because of the crank calls he has been receiving.

Much of Mr. Schorr's career has been spent in Europe. Though his French is said to be none too good, a former colleague recalled that Mr. Schorr got along admirably in France. As the former colleague put it:

"Whenever a Frenchman said anything to him, Dan would say, 'Vous trouvez?' —'Do you really think so?'. He got along very well with that one question."

Daniel Louis Schorr was born in New York City on Aug. 31, 1916. He graduated from the College of the City of New York in 1939. From 1934 to 1941 he worked as assistant editor of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, then for seven years was news editor of the Netherlands News Agency in New York. He was a freelance stringer for The New York Times, The Christian Science Monitor and The London Daily Mail in Europe from 1948 until 1953, when he joined CBS News.

A Roving Reporter

For CBS he has worked in Latin America, Europe and the Soviet Union and has had roving assignments in the United States. He is now in the CBS Washington bureau.

Mr. Schorr has won a number of awards, including the William the Silent award from Holland in 1950, an Overseas Press Club award for the best television foreign news in 1963 and an Emmy Award in 1972 for his coverage of the Watergate scandal.

He is the author of "Don't Get Sick in America," published in 1971. In 1967 Mr. Schorr married Lisbeth Bamberger. They have two children, Jonathan and Lisa. The Schorrs live in the Cleveland Park area of Washington. Mr. Schorr is a pipe smoker, an enthusiastic tennis player and the proud owner of an old gray Mercedes.