

CIA NL 500

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WASHINGTON, FEB. 20¹⁹⁶⁷ (AP)-A MEMBER OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S TOP-LEVEL TEAM INVESTIGATING LINKS BETWEEN STUDENT GROUPS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SAID TODAY IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR THE CIA TO "ENTANGLE ITSELF" IN THIS AREA.

SECRETARY OF WELFARE JOHN W. GARDNER SAID HE HAS "LITTLE RESPECT FOR CRITICS WHO GIVE THEMSELVES AIRS OF MORAL SUPERIORITY IN ATTACKING AN ACTIVITY THEY KNOW TO BE NECESSARY."

"BUT IT WAS A MISTAKE," HE SAID, "FOR THE CIA EVER TO ENTANGLE ITSELF IN COVERT ACTIVITIES CLOSE TO THE FIELD OF EDUCATION OR SCHOLARSHIP OR THE UNIVERSITIES."

THE CABINET OFFICER SPOKE AS SENS. JOHN STENNIS, D-MISS., AND MILTON R. YOUNG, R-N.D. DEFENDED THE CIA IN SENATE SPEECHES.

STENNIS SAID THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS MADE "GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS" TO AMERICAN SECURITY BY OBTAINING INFORMATION OF VALUE "FAR BEYOND THE MONETARY EXPENDITURES" IT MADE. HE SAID THOSE "TRYING TO DESTROY" THE CIA ARE "TREADING ON VERY DANGEROUS GROUND."

YOUNG TOLD THE SENATE THE CIA "HAS MADE SOME MISTAKES BUT THE GOOD IT DOES FAR OUTWEIGHS THESE."

"IF THE CIA HAD NOT PROVIDED THESE FUNDS, COMMUNIST STUDENTS WOULD HAVE DOMINATED THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES," YOUNG SAID. HE ADDED THAT PRIVATE FINANCING WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE BUT SAID "NO OTHER SOURCES WERE AVAILABLE."

YOUNG AND STENNIS ARE MEMBERS OF A SPECIAL SENATE COMMITTEE THAT OVERSEES THE CIA.

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GARDNER IS ONE OF THREE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS NAMED BY JOHNSON LAST WEEK TO INQUIRE INTO ACTIVITIES BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OR OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT COULD ENDANGER THE INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE NATION'S EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

THE REVIEW IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE NICHOLAS KATZENBACH, WHO ANNOUNCED THE PRESIDENT DIRECTED HIM, CIA CHIEF RICHARD HELMS, AND GARDNER TO DRAFT A POLICY TO GUIDE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES "IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS."

GARDNER ISSUED HIS STATEMENT AFTER THE ASSOCIATED PRESS REQUESTED HIS COMMENT ON DISCLOSURES THAT THE CIA HAD GIVEN SECRET FINANCIAL BACKING TO INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION AND OTHER GROUPS.

IN THE HOUSE, REP. WAYNE L. HAYS, D-OHIO, SAID THE DISCLOSURE OF SECRET CIA SUBSIDIZATION OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS HAD SHOCKED AND DISTURBED THE COUNTRY.

"THESE COVERT RELATIONSHIPS CORRODE THE VERY FOUNDATION OF A FREE SOCIETY," HE SAID. HAYS CONTENDED THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS AMPLE AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE "UNTAINTED AID" TO STUDENTS AND OTHERS DESIRING TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS.

HISTORIAN HENRY STEELE COMMAGER TOLD A SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARING THAT CIA SUBSIDIZATION OF STUDENTS ENDANGERS "THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH...AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM."

COMMAGER SAID IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SHORT-TERM GAINS IN SUCH PRACTICES IN "THE CONTEST WITH COMMUNISM," BUT HE SAID THE LONG-RANGE GOALS OF TRUTH AND FREEDOM WOULD BE HURT.

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HE WAS A WITNESS AT A HEARING ON U.S. POLICY IN VIETNAM AND ELSEWHERE.

EMERGING FROM ANOTHER CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE HEARING, UNITED AUTO WORKERS PRESIDENT WALTER REUTHER WAS ASKED BY NEWSMEN WHETHER HIS UNION HAD RECEIVED CIA SUPPORT FOR ANY OF ITS INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

"WHATEVER THE AUTO WORKERS HAVE DONE, THEY DID WITH THEIR OWN MONEY," HE REPLIED.

A LONG LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS RANGING FROM THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, TO THE AFL-CIO AMERICAN NEWSPAPER GUILD IN WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN NAMED AS INVOLVED WITH THE CIA BY SOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS.

SOME OF THESE, INCLUDING THE NEWSPAPER UNION, HAVE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY LINK.

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