

RUSSELL DENIES C.I.A. MAKES POLICY

Rejects Proposal to Expand Senate Watchdog Panel

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, May 16 —

Senator Richard B. Russell told the Senate today it was "sheer poppycock" to contend that the Central Intelligence Agency makes or takes over foreign policy.

The Georgia Democrat, who heads a subcommittee charged with overseeing the activities of the intelligence organization, rejected vigorously proposals that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee share in his supervision. Mr. Russell also heads the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"There is no justification whatever for any other committee to muscle in on the jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committee so far as the C.I.A. is concerned," he said.

As for charges he said had been made that the C.I.A. at times operated independently of the State Department and influenced foreign policy actions, Mr. Russell said:

"There simply is not a scintilla of truth in such a charge and not a single concrete case can be provided where it has done so."

Mr. Russell said these "erroneous charges are calculated to deceive members of Congress." He added that they "affect the sources available to the C.I.A., which are easily disturbed."

He is making a public statement, Mr. Russell said, because the C.I.A. is, by its nature, "compelled to stand mute" when such charges are made.

He noted that the C.I.A. was set up under the National Defense Act of 1947. The Armed Services Committee shepherded that act through the Senate, he said, and thus inherited the duty of overseeing the C.I.A.'s activities.

Senatorial supervision of the C.I.A. is shared by senior members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, which make funds available for clandestine operations.

Members Are Listed

Mr. Russell noted that he and Senator Leverett Saltonstall, Republican of Massachusetts, Margaret Chase Smith, Republican of Maine, and John Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, were members of both com-

mittees. Other members of the supervisory subcommittee are Senators Carl Hayden, Democrat of Arizona, Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, and Milton R. Young, Republican of North Dakota. Mr. Symington is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee as well as the Armed Services Committee.

Waving a piece of newspaper, Mr. Russell denounced a New York Times editorial. He said it stated that the supervisory subcommittee members had been "screened" by the C.I.A.

"The C.I.A. had no more connection with the selection of these subcommittee members than it had with the selection of the editorial staff of The New York Times," he said.

Mr. Russell praised his committee's record as being leak-proof. He noted the C.I.A. had "sources" throughout the world.

But the possibility of increased public discussion and leaks through an enlargement of the Congressional panel "might cause them to close up like clams . . . or worse than that, to lose their lives."

Another ranking member of the C.I.A. panel, Senator Saltonstall, supported Mr. Russell. He reminded the Senate the C.I.A. was "an important effort for the security of our country."

Raborn Silence Noted

Senator Young suggested that the Foreign Relations Committee set up its own "special subcommittee on the C.I.A."

Senator J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, interjected that this had been proposed before.

But Mr. Fulbright said Adm. William F. Raborn, the C.I.A.'s director, when appearing before the Foreign Relations Committee, "took the position he was not authorized under the law to respond to our questions."

Mr. Fulbright added that the proposal in his committee coming up for a vote tomorrow, to add three members to the C.I.A. oversight group, was "in no way a reflection" on Mr. Russell.

But, he said, "the way things have developed in the world has brought the C.I.A. into far more activities than was contemplated when it was created."

And it is clear on the record that the C.I.A. does have an impact on American foreign policy, he added.

"I think in many countries it is more influential than our Ambassador and I have had Ambassadors who have told me this," Mr. Fulbright said.

He called the resolution to add three Foreign Relations members to the oversight panel "not a radical proposal at all, but rather a modest one."

Mr. Russell commented that Mr. Fulbright seemed to be under the impression that the present oversight group involved informal committees.

"These are not informal at all, they are duly constituted subcommittees of the Armed

Services and Appropriations Committees," Mr. Russell said.

Senator Ernest Gruening, Democrat of Alaska, said the failure at the Bay of Pigs showed that the C.I.A. does make foreign policy.

"They were able to persuade two Presidents to go ahead with that project," he said. "They completely misinformed the President."

"Mr. Russell replied that 'what you are saying is that the C.I.A. sold the President a bill of goods.'"

"But the C.I.A. couldn't have moved one foot without the approval of the President," he added.