

... State Dept's New Intelligence Chief A CIA Man Linked To Chiang

BUT THIS TRAVESTY OF REPRESENTATIVE government can be the beginning of serious trouble for the military-industrial complex. For the first time in years a half dozen weapons systems were challenged from the floor. On the ABM the opposition rolled up 105 votes, not far from one-fourth the House membership. Five members of Rivers' committee — Leggett (D. Cal.), Whalen (R. Ohio), Nedzi (D. Mich.), Pike (D. N.Y.) and Stafford (R. Vt.) — challenged the Chairman and defied pressure from military suppliers. This Fearless Five set up a bi-partisan study group and made independent recommendations, giving the House the benefit of opposition leadership with access to the Committee's classified information. The liberal Democratic Study Group sent out elaborate Fact Sheets which provided detailed analyses of the bill and the weapons.

ALL THIS ACTIVITY MAY PAY OFF when the authorization must be turned into an appropriation. The House Appropriations Committee this year is critical of the military. Laird expressed fear some weeks ago of a \$5 billion cut by House Appropriations. One item almost certain to be cut is the extra \$960 million for the Navy. There is now the beginnings of an informed and aroused opposition in the House to spiralling arms costs. It would be good if study groups could be established around the country to educate concerned citizens and mobilize counter-pressure against the military-industrial complex. Rivers threatened Leggett with reprisals from his California district, which has a number of military bases. We hope his constituents will support him against Pentagon blackmail.

IN THE WAKE OF THE GREEN BERET case, Asians will ask a question Washington has been too insensitive racially to consider. What if the victim had been an American, a white man, not a "gook", would the case have been quashed and the widow brushed off with \$6,000? Another question should concern us at home. Where are we drifting when an undercover agency is not only allowed to arrange murder but to make prosecution impossible by refusing to allow its operatives to honor subpoenas to testify? What if the next murder of this kind is at home? How does the Administration reconcile its stand for law and order with this impunity for murder?

If Only We Had Had More Carriers . . .

"We blundered in the long twilight preceding World War II, and found ourselves with only seven carriers all told, when the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor. . . .

"When the Korean War started we were again down to seven active modern 'attack carriers' of the Essex class, although just a few years earlier we had completed building 24 of them. If we had been able to station more than one in the Western Pacific, after the severe defense cuts by Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson and the Congress in 1949, we might have deterred the invasion of South Korea. . . .

"Reason and common sense tell us, now, that North Viet Nam was also not deterred from invading the South by what they saw us doing to the readiness of our armed forces in the early sixties. Was it just a coincidence that the carrier was under severe fire by Defense Secretary McNamara as Ho Chi Minh made his preparations?"

—By Rep. Craig Hosmer (R. Col.) in *Navy magazine* (Oct.) reprinted in the *Con. Record*, Sept. 29, H8523.

IT IS APPALLING THAT AT SUCH A MOMENT the Administration should pick a veteran CIA man as director of the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, with the rank of Assistant Secretary but without the title, so he is not subject to Senate confirmation. Ray S. Cline has not only been a top CIA man since 1949 but has close ties with the Chiang Kai-shek regime; he served for a time on Taiwan and was in charge of U-2 flights over China; he is a hard-line cold warrior and we hear that the influential Anna Chennault played a part in the appointment. Rogers and Richardson have been talking of a new China policy yet this key post goes to a man whose outlook has been molded by undercover work on Taiwan where (*Washington Post*, Oct. 4) he became a close friend of Chiang Kai-shek's son and expected successor. In his new capacity Cline will sit on the powerful Board of National Estimates, the government's highest intelligence body and in the words of State's announcement he will be the Department's "principal source of long range forecasts and analysis of political, economic and sociological trends throughout the world." Is the cloak-and-dagger the right training for a sane view of world politics?

How Saigon's Landlord-Legislators Are Balking Nixon and Thieu on Land Reform

In one respect South Vietnam is no dictatorship. Thieu may suspend newspapers, persecute the Buddhists and jail peaceniks. But when he tries to enact land reform, he runs into trouble. In the joint communique after he met with Nixon at Midway last June 8, Thieu "laid particular stress on his pursuit of a vigorous land redistribution program that would give land to those who work it" and Nixon offered American aid.

The idea was to undercut the Viet Cong appeal to the landless peasant. Thieu's plan would have distributed 1.3 million hectares to some 800,000 tenants. The program would have cost \$400 million and Nixon promised \$40 million. The landlords were to be paid \$80 million in cash, the rest in "rice bonds", linked to the price of rice, so their capital would not be destroyed by inflation.

But the Assembly, which is dominated by landlords, balked. Thieu's plan did not even get out of committee. The bill as finally passed (see John E. Woodruff from Saigon in the *Baltimore Sun* Aug. 26 and Sept. 2, the only

correspondent who seems to be covering this crucial story) would reduce the number of landless peasants benefitting to 480,000 or 290,000 (estimates differ). The cash compensation to the landlords was raised so sharply that U.S. officials here with whom we discussed it fear the inflationary impact. The bill would also make it harder for the peasant to get the land.

The bill is now before the Senate, which has just reconvened. Thanks to the peculiar way the elections were rigged, the Senate is dominated by Catholics, mostly refugees from the North, who won 35 of the 60 seats with about one-eighth of the total votes cast. The Catholics are close to Thieu. Thieu also has power to amend any bill, and it takes a majority vote of both houses to override his amendments. A long battle is still ahead. In Vietnam as in the Philippines and Thailand, the landed oligarchies of "free Asia" we spend so much blood and treasure to defend are remarkably unwilling to make any sacrifice themselves.