

John Roche SF Examiner

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A Startling 'Revelation'

SUPPOSE THAT down the block from you in a quiet, middle-class community there lived, say, an insurance agent. Not a vice president, not an executive; just an insurance agent. And suppose that every year for 20 years he turned up with a brand new Mercedes limousine, a real monster.

Then one day an investigator appeared at your door and asked: "Did you have any reason to believe that Mr. X. had outside sources of revenue?"

THE NORMAL reaction would be "Of course! Look at those cars." Not even the village idiot would be so naive as to say "Gosh, did he? How could we have known?" Keeping this in mind, let us turn to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the funding of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty.

For 20 years Radio Free Europe has been broadcasting to the Communist nations of Eastern Europe in the appropriate languages. Currently it operates 18 hours a day and has 32 transmitters, most in West Germany, some in Spain.

Radio Liberty specializes in broadcasts to the Soviet Union with 17 transmitters in Spain, West Germany and Taiwan. Its programs go out in all the major languages of Soviet minority groups.

Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty had a \$36.2 million combined budget for fiscal 1971.

When anyone asked how the money was raised, he was told that various private

groups provided it. The communists said it was a U. S. intelligence operation.

In general, it was agreed that the stations did a good and useful job. Nobody made any noise about their activities and Congress simply ignored the whole matter. If you had gone to a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and asked him if he really believed that you could go out with a tin cup and raise \$36 million a year, he would doubtless have changed the subject.

However, in the last few years the climate has changed. Notably the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has unilaterally declared the Cold War to be over and exposes of intelligence operations have become a form of entertainment on the Hill. As part of the festive spirit Senator Clifford Case announced to a shocked Senate that the CIA had been funding Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty!

This singular revelation led to what is perhaps the most remarkable confession of incompetence ever to emerge from any Senate committee. The fact that this financing—covering some 20 years—has been kept a secret from the American people and their elected representatives."

THE AVERAGE TAXPAYER, however, is under the illusion that his elected representatives are not paid to be deceived. Meditating on this, he is likely to reach the sensible conclusion that the senators involved are either liars or idiots. Either way, they have made a case for their own replacement.