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Nixon Reshuffles

'Spy System Has Grown Wasteful'

By Patrick J. Sloyan

WASHINGTON — A driving force behind President Nixon's reshuffling of the nation's intelligence apparatus is a handful of key congressmen who think the spy system has grown fat and wasteful with taxpayer dollars.

White House officials did not mention the intensive pressure from members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees in announcing changes Nov. 6.

One of the most important steps Nixon took was to give director Richard Helms, of the Central Intelligence Agency authority to trim budgets of the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the intelligence branches of the FBI, State Department, Treasury and Atomic Energy Commission.

Remains Boss

While Helms remains the CIA boss, day-to-day agency operations will be turned over to his deputy, Marine Lt. Gen. Robert Cushman.

Although there is some debate in Congress over the real meaning of Nixon's move, most agree that under Helms the Pentagon's intelligence operations will suffer most.

Revelations that the Army intelligence system had strayed into amassing files on civil rights and anti-war activists and even some congressmen has increased congressional pressure for a crackdown on Pentagon operatives. And, it was faulty DIA information that turned the Sontay American prisoners rescue mission in 1970 into a fiasco.



RICHARD HELMS

Added responsibilities

\$3 Billion

The exact cost of U.S. intelligence operations is classified.

But sources said the total strategic intelligence budget is about \$3 billion a year, with the CIA getting less than \$1 billion annually. These congressional sources said the lion's share of the budget went to the National Security Agency the supersecret military codebreaking complex at Ft. Meade, Md.

"There are a lot of things the NSA does that we can do without when we're short of money," explained one senator.

Also involved, however, is an additional \$2 billion the Pentagon spends on tactical intelligence — the G2 branch that gathers and analyzes battlefield information for commanding generals.