Ex-Defense Chief Wages CIA Probe

Washington

Clark M. Clifford, a former secretary of defense who helped draft the 1947 legislation setting up the Central Intelligence Agency, urged Congress yesterday to form a special committee to investigate the published charges of alleged domestic spying by that agency.

"Previous investigations into the CIA by ordinary (Senate and House Armed Services) committees have not gotten very far," said Clifford, who served in President Johnson's cabinet. "The seriousness of this is such that I would recommend a full and exhaustive investigation by a special committee."

Thus far, the chairmen of four panels, including the House and Senate Armed Services Intelligence Subcommittees, have announced plans for full in-



CLARK CLIFFORD He wasn't briefed

quiries next year stemming from a report in the New York Times last Sunday that the CIA had allegedly mounted a massive and illegal domestic spying operation during the Nixon administration.

In a telephone interview, Clifford said he had never been briefed on any domestic activities by the CIA during his service from 1961 to 1968 as a member and later chairman of the president's foreign intelligence advisory board.

The board was set up by President Kennedy after the failure of the Bay of Pigs operation in Cuba in 1961 to provide high-level outside review of secret intelligence operations.

"What they (the CIA) did was just never mentioned to us during their briefings," Clifford said. "These fellows (at the CIA) obviously were operating with the greatest degree of secrecy."

"I can tell you," he said, "that whatever they did they did at their peril. If J. Edgar Hoover had heard of it, he would have come in blasting. It would have caused quite a snarl." Even before the drafting of the 1947 National Security Act setting up the CIA, Clifford recalled, Hoover "laid the law down: the FBI was to be the sole agency of the government to handle matters inside the continental United States."

Clifford, now the senior partner in a Washington law firm, was at that time an attorney on the White House staff of President Truman.

It took careful negotiations inside the Truman administration, Clifford said, to achieve a consensus on the powers of the new CIA. "We very carefully carved out their functions," he recalled, to restrict CIA operations inside the United States.

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