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Air Force
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Admits to
Funding CIA

Reuter

Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) has won from the Air Force an admission that part of its military procurement budget goes to the Central Intelligence Agency.

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FEB) Air Force Secretary John L. McLucas was testifying Monday before the Senate Armed Services Committee on the Air Force's request for authority to contract to spend \$26 billion in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Symington, himself a former Secretary of the Air Force, called attention to a table in McLucas' prepared testimony, which outlined the dollars being spent on Air Force missiles.

The senator read down the list—Minuteman III, \$298.4 million; Maverick, \$72.7 million; Sparrow, \$43.3 million—until he came to a line titled "Other," \$734.1 million.

Symington: "Is that CIA money?"

McLucas: "It includes some intelligence money."

Symington: "CIA?"

McLucas: "Yes."

Noting that the funding for the "Other" category was the biggest outlay in the table, the senator said, "You see how silly it looks."

Symington indicated no surprise at the McLucas admission, nor did he press for a breakdown of how much of the \$734.1 million was earmarked for the CIA.

It has been widely assumed that portions of the CIA's budget are concealed in the budgets of various other agencies. Presumably, a portion of the Air Force funds support the "spy in the sky" satellites which keep track of, among other things, Soviet missile deployment.