

Justice Dept. Examines Helms' Testimony on CIA

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The Justice Department is examining testimony given by former Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard M. Helms before congressional committees to determine whether he committed perjury, according to informed sources.

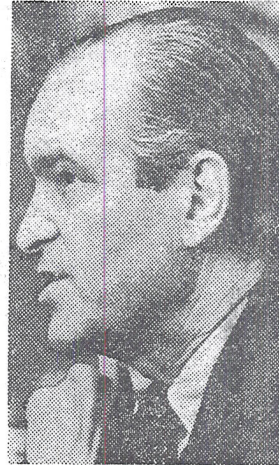
Helms has acknowledged that he gave the Senate Foreign Relations Committee incomplete information regarding the CIA's involvement in Chilean politics when he testified before the committee two years ago. In testimony before the committee last Jan. 22, made public Sunday, Helms

said he should have answered "in a much more extensive way" when asked about the CIA and Chile.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Kevin T. Maroney, under whom the investigation is being conducted, declined to make any comment on the matter, but another source described the inquiry as being "exhaustive" in its scope.

Helms is understood to have been worried about his Senate testimony concerning the CIA and Chile. In addition to that testimony, however, apparent

See HELMS, A12, Col. 1



RICHARD M. HELMS
... "no intention of lying"

HELMS, From A1

discrepancies in Helms' testimony concerning the Watergate affair also were cited in May, 1973 by Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.), then chairman of the committee, when Helms was recalled by the panel to explain his earlier testimony.

During his confirmation hearings on his nomination to be U.S. ambassador to Iran, in February 1973, Helms, in answer to questions from Fulbright, said that Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. had had no relationship with the CIA since he retired in 1970 and that Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy had had no relationship with the agency.

Following Helms' confirmation hearings, it was revealed that the CIA had provided Hunt and Liddy with equipment and documents as well as other services in connection with the September, 1971, break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. Before, that the CIA had provided other assistance to Hunt.

Fulbright asked Helms on May 21, 1973, to explain the "inconsistency" or "apparent inconsistency" between Helms' testimony and what was later learned.

Helms told Fulbright that the questions at the February hearing concerned the Watergate break-in. "The Watergate break-in was all I was directing my attention to because I believed that is what you were interested in and that is what the questions indicated you were interested in," Helms testified.

"I do not think my questions related just to Watergate," Fulbright said. "I was asking you your relationship with Hunt and Liddy. Did you have anything to do with Hunt and Liddy is what I really asked you, and if I read it correctly, you said 'No.'"

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In his confirmation hearings, Helms was asked by Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) if the CIA had tried "to overthrow the government of Chile" headed by Salvador Allende, who later died in the military coup of September, 1973. "No, sir," Helms replied.

Symington asked, "Did you have any money passed to the opponents of Allende?"

"No, sir," Helms replied.

CIA Director William Colby subsequently testified before the House Armed Services subcommittee on intelligence that CIA spent \$11 million in Chile in anti-Allende programs.

Helms told the Senate committee last month that the money went to civil action groups, newspapers and radio stations "to keep alive" opposition voices in Chile. "I did not realize that went into political parties," Helms said, referring to the CIA funds. "I did not think that it had, at least it was my understanding at the time."

Helms told the committee last month that he had "no intention of lying . . . no intention of deliberately misleading" the committee and that he had assumed "a fund of knowledge on the part of you gentlemen which possibly you did not have."

The Justice Department's investigation of Helms' testi-

mony began only recently, although its initiation reportedly preceded and apparently was not related to news reports alleging that the CIA conducted illegal domestic surveillance. It was not clear, however, what prompted the department to begin examining Helms' testimony.