
 INTELLIGENCE

SEE THE CIA IN THE USA

*Tom Dewey may have had some very special help
in his 1948 campaign for president.*

BY T.J. DONNELLY

A National Security Agency memorandum, declassified on June 17, reveals that the CIA's program of covert domestic activity, far from being a response to the antiwar movement of the sixties, extends back to the very beginnings of the agency in 1947.

Just what these activities consisted of is not certain, but they may have involved interference in domestic elections. Sources within the intelligence community have alleged that in 1948, the CIA funneled more than \$1 million from its secret budget into the campaign coffers of Thomas Dewey. Four years later, the same sources claim, the CIA supplied money and political information to the Eisenhower-Nixon campaign. It is also charged that several members of Congress received favors from the CIA.

The CIA, however, denies that it ever intervened in domestic electoral politics. A CIA spokesman told *SEVENDAYS*, "It's a lot of baloney."

Nevertheless, intelligence sources have privately identified Dewey, the

T.J. Donnelly is a free-lance journalist.

long-time New York governor, as a key force behind the CIA's intrusion into domestic politics. Dewey had worked with the CIA's predecessor, the Office of Strategic Services, during its World War II alliance with the Mafia, and he lobbied hard to create the CIA after the war had turned the U.S. into the world's leading military power. Dewey's viewpoint reflected that of John Foster Dulles, his chief foreign-policy advisor, who felt the CIA was crucial to stopping communism abroad.

Helping The CIA

The intelligence community sources claim that Dewey and Dulles set up a system to help keep pro-CIA politicians in power since they regarded the instability of Congress and the White House as the major domestic threat to the CIA. Dewey and Dulles' younger brother Allen, a CIA deputy director, are charged with having arranged for contributions, endorsements, and campaign volunteers for the CIA's friends on Capitol Hill.

Most help allegedly went to young members of Congress who had their careers ahead of them. Richard Nixon, a former Navy lieutenant elected to the House in 1946, is said to have been one

beneficiary. When Nixon ran against Helen Douglas for the Senate in 1950, the CIA allegedly supplied him with its Douglas files, which described her as a communist "fellow traveler." According to the same sources, Nixon had already received a political boost from Dewey, the Dulles brothers, and the CIA when they helped him to brand Alger Hiss as a communist.

After Dewey failed to win the presidency in 1948 despite the CIA's backing, he threw his support—and that of the CIA—to the Eisenhower-Nixon team in 1952, according to the same sources. They also charge that, in addition to money, the CIA furnished Ike and Nixon with secret military information about the Korean War that was then leaked to the media to embarrass the Truman administration. These sources also claim that the CIA agent who served as a liaison to the 1952 Republican ticket was E. Howard Hunt, the Watergate burglar who worked with Nixon in planning what was to become the Bay of Pigs invasion.

As soon as Eisenhower and Nixon took office, John Foster Dulles was appointed secretary of state and Allen Dulles was promoted to CIA director. However, Eisenhower is said to have balked at Nixon's request that Dewey be appointed chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Throughout the fifties, the same sources allege, the CIA continued to send money and campaign help to friendly members of Congress, a practice phased out only after John Kennedy became president. □

Thomas Dewey, flanked by New York's finest, in midst of his campaign against Harry Truman in 1948.

