

# Army Keeps Tab on 7 Million Civilians

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department said today it keeps index cards on 25 million Americans — one eighth of the total U.S. population.

The department said the computerized cards contained pertinent information on people, such as their name, sex and place of birth as well as the filing number of a dossier containing additional information.

The Army alone keeps 7-138,181 personality dossiers on aliens, present and former employes of industrial security contractors, persons "considered to constitute a threat to security and defense" and past and former military personnel.

Assistant Defense Secretary Robert Froehlke disclosed the figures in testimony before the Senate Constitutional Rights subcommittee.

Froehlke testified that military surveillance of civilians was undertaken on an unprecedented scale in the late 1960s with the knowledge of but little direction from White House officials.

Froehlke said that the gathering and analysis of information about individuals was related to the increased frequency and intensity of civilian disturbances and demands on the military to assist in putting down riots.

#### Guidance

Froehlke said there was no state or federal law prohibiting the Army's information collection, which he said was "obviously considered necessary and essential to the effective use of federal military forces in connection with the widespread riots and domestic disorders occurring in this period."

He said White House personnel were involved in the

establishment of the steps taken to provide civilian disturbance information and that the Justice Department also participated.

However, he said the records reveal that "little, if any, direction and guidance was provided to the military services from the White House or the Department of Justice in written form."

He acknowledged that files were kept on well-known political figures such as Sen. Adlai Stevenson III (D-Ill.), but announced that steps were being taken to strictly limit the practice and place it under civilian control.

Froehlke said the Defense Central Index of Investigation, established in 1965,

—Turn to Page 5, Col. 1

served as the central index for counter-intelligence and criminal investigative files of the defense department.

"The DC II contains about 25 million index cards on personalities and 760,000 cards on organizations and incidents," he said. "On an average day, 12,000 requests are processed and 20,000 additions, deletions and changes are made."

Froehlke said, "There was a file bearing the name of Sen. Adlai Stevenson III in the field office of the Army's investigative and counter-intelligence unit in Chicago and that this file consisted wholly or primarily of newspaper clippings."

But Froehlke said the files had been destroyed.

The Defense Department issued a new directive effective yesterday prohibiting "physical or electronic surveillance of federal, state or local officials, or of candidates for such offices," Froehlke said.

He said the new directive would prohibit use of covert surveillance of persons or organizations without specific authorization of the Defense Secretary or his designee.



**ROBERT FROEHLKE**  
No law prohibits it  
—AP Photo

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