

Notes on People by Laurie Johnston**NYTimes AUG 7 1975**

William J. Cotter, the chief inspector of the Postal Service who stopped the Central Intelligence Agency's mail-opening program in 1973, has retired to his home near Washington on an unpaid medical leave pending approval of his early retirement. The move came just after Representative Charles H. Wilson, Democrat of California, released a letter asking that Mr. Cotter be dismissed for not having stopped the mail-surveillance program earlier. But postal officials said it had been under discussion since he suffered a heart attack in January.

Born in Bayonne, N.J., 54 years ago, Mr. Cotter graduated from City College and New York University Law School and later joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He also spent 18 years with the C.I.A. Representative Wilson, citing the Rockefeller Commission's report on the C.I.A., has alleged that Mr. Cotter knew about the agency's mail surveillance before he joined the Postal Service in 1969.