

# Helms Says Barker Fired for Gambling

United Press International

The Central Intelligence Agency fired convicted water-gate burglar Bernard L. Barker in the mid-1960s because he was involved with "gambling and criminal elements," according to former CIA director Richard Helms.

Barker is the man who worked for E. Howard Hunt Jr. during the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. In the spring of 1971 he recruited, at Hunt's request, the burglary team that broke into the Los Angeles office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist and subsequently was caught in the 1972 Watergate break-in.

Barker and five others were indicted Thursday for allegedly conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. Lewis Fielding, Ellsberg's psychiatrist. He has served a year in jail after pleading guilty in the June, 1972, break-in of Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex.

Helms' testimony, given to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee behind closed doors on Feb. 7, 1973, was made public yesterday. The hearings were held on the nomination of Helms to be Ambassador to Iran.

Barker's attorney, Daniel F. Schultz, promptly denied Helms' description of why Barker was terminated by the CIA.

"Mr. Helms' testimony is inconsistent with official information we have received from the CIA. It is categorically denied by Mr. Barker and is simply not true," Schultz said.

Helms' statement on Barker appeared to conflict with Barker's account of his relations with the CIA given in sworn testimony before the Senate Watergate committee May 24, 1973, 3½ months after Helms testified at the Foreign Relations Committee.

Helms told the committee about Barker:

"During the Bay of Pigs he was one of the Cuban derivatives who was involved in that operation and it is my recollection that all lines with him on the part of the agency were eliminated some time in the middle '60s.

Barker, testifying to the Watergate committee, said he

left the CIA immediately after the end of the Bay of Pigs operation in April, 1961, and had no further connection with it until Hunt approached him 10 years later to set up the burglary team.

CIA spokesmen said it would be "difficult" to find out exactly when Barker left the agency or the circumstances.

## Helms Tells of Using Top U.S. Businessmen

Reuter

Richard Helms, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has told senators he had a policy of going right to the top of American business firms in trying to get their cooperation in gathering intelligence overseas.

Helms now is ambassador to Iran. During a closed-door hearing on his ambassadorial nomination, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in February, 1973, Helms said the CIA did not press businessmen or others to pass on potentially useful information they may have obtained while visiting the Soviet Union or other countries.

"There is no payment of money. There is no effort to twist anyone's arm. We simply are giving them an opportunity as patriotic Americans to say what they know about this."

Answering questions about contacts with American business firms abroad under CIA's Domestic Contact Service, he said: "It has been my own feeling that one should start with the chief executive officer normally because it is not fair to these companies to set up a relationship with somebody down the line that the chief executive officer does not know about or at least has not indicated that this other man is your point of contact."

An estimated 200 persons are operating as intelligence agents under the guise of businessmen, according to recent American press reports quoting an unnamed American official who apparently is familiar with the inner workings of the CIA.