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Senator Said to Have Advised
Helms on How to Reply to
Watergate Inquiry Questions

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 — Senator Henry M. Jackson advised Richard Helms, former director of central intelligence, on how to respond to Congressional questions on Watergate at a dinner meeting with Senator Stuart Symington early in 1973, according to Congressional sources.

This was the second reported incident to come to light in which Mr. Jackson was sought out by C.I.A. or former C.I.A. officials and asked how to deal with Congressional investigations. This and several other contacts by Mr. Helms with members of Congress are expected to come under scrutiny as the Justice Department presses its investigation into whether Mr. Helms committed perjury in his Capitol hill testimony.

Mr. Helms, Ambassador to Iran, returned here from Teheran late Sunday for Congressional appearances. He has retained Edward Bennett Williams, a prominent Washington lawyer, to represent him.

Senator Jackson confirmed that Mr. Helms had been his dinner guest in early 1973, but said he could not remember the date. He added that he believed it was after Mr. Helms had been confirmed as Ambassador in February.

Watergate Involvement Feared

Mr. Jackson recalled that Senator Symington has asked him to talk to Mr. Helms about the C.I.A. aspects of the Watergate case. Mr. Helms was worried that they [people in the Nixon Administration] were trying to implicate him and C.I.A. in the Watergate matter," Mr. Jackson said.

He said that he had invited Mr. Helms to dinner on a Sunday evening, and that he arrived with Mr. Symington. Senator Jackson said that he never had discussed C.I.A. operations in Chile with Mr. Helms, but that it was his memory Mr. Symington and Mr. Helms did discuss Chile in his home.

He added that he had "just listened to" what Mr. Helms had to say about meetings with E. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, then top Nixon aides, and had told him "to lay out all the facts" before

Senate investigators. Mr. Jackson said that he was unsure which Congressional investigation Mr. Helms was anxious about, but he said he was sure the meeting took place after Mr. Helms had completed his Senate confirmation hearings in February, 1973.

Mr. Symington was unavailable for comment today because he had undergone an operation at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

On May 21, Mr. Helms returned from Iran and testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on C.I.A. connections with Watergate. The hearing was not closed because Senator Symington pressed for it to be public, committee sources said.

Unusual Aspect Noted

What appeared unusual to several Congressional committee aides was why Mr. Jackson's advice would be sought. He was not a member of the committee at that time. He was, however, a member of a C.I.A. Oversight Committee.

Two sets of testimony by Mr. Helms are under study at the Justice Department. One is testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee in February 1973 and the other is testimony in closed session before a subcommittee that was investigating C.I.A. relations with the International Telephone and Telegraph, Inc. in Chile.

Earlier this week, the New York Times published information from a still secret report of the House Select Committee on Intelligence that implied Mr. Jackson had advised C.I.A. officials on how to protect the agency from a Senate investigation of Chile operations. He denied the allegation, but acknowledged that he did give C.I.A. advice on "procedural" matters.

Mr. Helms told members of the Senate Government Operations Committee today that he believed a Congressional committee set up to monitor intelligence agencies should be briefed on covert operations before they were undertaken.

He said that in the past some members of Congress had resisted being told about such operations "because it could be embarrassing to them politically."

Meanwhile, the House Intelligence Committee voted, 9 to 4, formally to recommend that funds for all intelligence related items be disclosed in the President's annual budget. Funds for the agency are now disguised in this defense department budget.