
C.I.A. Used 16 Agents To Spy on Columnist

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WASHINGTON, May 4 (AP)—The Central Intelligence Agency used as many as 16 agents a day to spy on Jack Anderson, the columnist, and his staff in 1972 to determine the sources of his news articles, according to newly released files.

In one case, four agents were stationed at tables inside an expensive restaurant to watch Mr. Anderson have lunch with Richard Helms, Director of Central Intelligence. Mr. Helms, who was trying to talk the columnist out of printing classified information in a book he was writing, was aware of the surveillance, the agency says. The Director authorized the surveillance to make certain that Mr. Anderson was not bugging him.

The spying operation, approved in January 1972, continued until April 12, 1972, when the C.I.A. decided that it had been carried on too long, was unfruitful and the agency "was suspicious that Anderson was aware of the operation."

The files on the operation were released to Mr. Anderson after he requested them under provision of the Freedom of Information Act. He is using the information as evidence in a \$22 million suit he has filed against former President Richard M. Nixon and other past and present Government officials. The suit says the officials committed various illegal acts and violated his constitutional rights to free speech and privacy. Mr. Anderson first disclosed details of the spying operation in a Nov. 19, 1975, column.