

JOHNSON PRAISES C.I.A. AND CHIEFS

Swears In New Director in
a White House Ceremony

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 30— President Johnson gave high praise today to the Central Intelligence Agency, a hearty "Well done" to its outgoing director, and warm greetings to its new one.

The occasion was the swearing in the White House East Room, of Richard M. Helms, a 53-year-old former foreign correspondent who has served with the agency since its formation in 1947. Mr. Helms succeeds Admiral William F. Raborn, who held the post for only 13 months.

Both the agency and the admiral have been the target of criticism in recent months. Critics have accused the agency of stepping too frequently out of the role of intelligence into the field of policy. And the admiral's critics have said that he showed little aptitude for either intelligence work or foreign affairs.

Moreover, recruitment of personnel, said to have been hampered by reports of the agency's activities over the years, is said to have been further hampered by reported complaints about the admiral.

Admiral Raborn, 61, served for most of his adult life in the Navy and managed the development of the Submarine-borne Polaris missile system. When chosen to replace John A. McCone as Central Intelligence Agency director in April, 1965,

he was vice-president in charge of management of the Aerojet-General Corporation in California.

There was some thought that Mr. Johnson responding to these criticisms when he named Mr. Helms to replace the admiral two weeks ago. But there was no evidence of this in his remarks today, as he paid high tribute both to the agency and the men who run it.

"The nature of their work does not often allow public acknowledgment," the President said. "Praised or damned — and we are living in an era where men who spend all their time concerned with the protec-

tion of security of their country are frequently damned more than they are praised — these men must go about their work without standing up for bows and speaking out in their own defense."

"Their role," he went on, "is misunderstood by some of their supporters, and I never read a morning paper without seeing it being distorted by their critics."

Mr. Johnson drew laughter from the large crowd when he said that he had yet to meet an "007" in the agency, a reference to James Bond the fictional secret agent created by the late British author, Ian Fleming.