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4 Top CIA Agents Out-- Maybe Fired

Washington

Four top officials of the Central Intelligence Agency are planning to retire within weeks in what some high-level officials believe is the start of a major re-vamping of the agency under James R. Schlesinger, its new director.

None of the men, all supergrade employees of the agency, have reached the CIA's mandatory retirement age of 60, but have been told — in effect — to retire, well-informed sources close to the agency said last night.

Those leaving are:

- Bronson Tweedy, a former deputy to outgoing CIA chief Richard M. Helms.
- Thomas Parrott, a deputy to Tweedy who has worked in various positions on the CIA headquarters staff since the early 1960s.
- Thomas Karamessines, director of the agency's clandestine services, the so-called "dirty tricks" department, which is responsible for both espionage activities and covert intelligence operations.

● Laurence Houston, the general counsel of the CIA.

Knowledgeable sources said that the four men were fired by Schlesinger, who replaced Helms less than three weeks ago with what was said to be a mandate from the White House to streamline the CIA. Helms subsequently was named ambassador to Iran by President Nixon.

But one high-ranking CIA official disputed the contention that the men had been ousted and claimed that the officials "were soon about to go" at their own request from the agency.

Another source said, however, that "the CIA never fired anybody before like this. It's extraordinarily brutal."

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