

CIA Crimes--Who'll Be Prosecuted?



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THE Justice Department now faces the ticklish task of determining who should be prosecuted for the crimes that the Central Intelligence Agency committed.

Under CIA auspices, murders were plotted, offices were burglarized, letters were opened, telephones were tapped, defectors were abused and unsuspecting victims were dosed with LSD.

Our sources swear that the Justice Department will prosecute the federal violations and will turn over to the states evidence of local violations.

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BUT THE dilemma that already is dividing the Justice Department is whether to go after the top leaders who ordered the illegal acts or the agents who carried them out.

Government agents seldom have been prosecuted for criminal conduct if they were acting under orders. Yet there is even a stronger tendency on the part of the big brass to protect one another.

After the My Lai massacre, the generals in charge of the operation were never indicted. And the Watergate burglars, together with their ringleaders G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt, spent more time in the slammer than did their superiors who got early paroles.

Our Justice Department sources say many legal questions must be resolved

before it is decided which cases will be pushed. But the prosecutors will do their best, our sources say, to prove that top CIA officials were fully aware they were operating outside the law and, therefore, should be brought before the bar of justice.

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THE Environmental Protection Agency's new drinking water standards, it is alleged, do nothing to filter cancer-causing substances from the nation's tap water.

The Environmental Defense Fund charges in an unpublished report that the latest government standards are a "travesty." They are so low, claims the report, that 92.1 per cent of the country's communities already meet them. Indeed, the standards are no better than the 1962 Public Health recommendations for water purity, the report states.

At the 11th hour, EPA allegedly increased the "safe" levels for fluoridation by 33 per cent. It also encouraged use of chlorine to disinfect the water supplies instead of advocating safer filtration methods, the report charges.

An EPA spokesman told us that the cancer-causing traces, cited by the Environment Defense Fund, are only "suspects" and not proven killers in the drinking water. The spokesman denied that EPA's water standards threaten public health.