

C.I.A.'s Work Unimpeded by Inquiries and Reports,
Officials of Agency Assert

by Seymour M. Hersh

Washington, Nov. 9 - Officials of the Central Intelligence Agency, despite repeated public avowals of diminished prestige and operational ability because of the various inquiries into intelligence operations, are convinced that the agency will suffer no serious loss of authority and no erosion of its ability to produce professional intelligence estimates and reports.

Another Senate aide* [said,] "There was a way to do the job but it wouldn't have gotten headlines. The C.I.A. is going to come out of this better off because everyone will think things have been dug up and investigated."

*(From context, this appears to be a Church committee aide, but Hersh does not say so specifically.)

A number of agency officials said that a major concern did develop over the publication earlier this year of "Inside the Company," a book by Philip Agee.... The book led to serious problems for some operatives, intelligence officials said. They added, however, that no similar

information had leaked from the Congressional intelligence committees.

~~See~~ For other refs, see Anthony Lewis, NYT 23 Feb 76,
~~this~~ filed CIA-d.