

## CIA Plugging Leaks



**Jack Anderson**

**T**HERE has been a quiet but powerful effort to shut the lid on CIA scandals.

Three days after Admiral Stansfield Turner was sworn in as the new CIA chief, he spoke to Attorney General Griffin Bell about plugging leaks. Turner would like to impose criminal sanctions against government officials who disclose CIA secrets.

On Capitol Hill, Senate Intelligence Chairman Daniel Inouye, (Dem-Hawaii), told colleagues that he had no inclination to investigate past scandals. His committee had enough to do, he said, just keeping up with current intelligence operations.

The committee unanimously agreed at a secret meeting not to dwell on the CIA's past. "The committee feels it is not possible with the resources available to investigate all past wrongdoings," a spokesman told us.

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**T**HERE is one curious exception to Inouye's disinterest in old CIA skeletons. He directed his staff to proceed cautiously with an investigation of the John F. Kennedy assassination. This was a promise, Inouye explained, that he had made to the Senate.

But competent sources claim Inouye has fallen under the influence of the CIA, which has quietly encouraged him to shut off inquiries into past

scandals but to go ahead with a discreet investigation of the Kennedy murder.

The CIA's strategy, according to these sources, is to stymie the House assassination probe. Too close scrutiny of the tragedy might embarrass the CIA, which withheld crucial facts from the Warren Commission. The CIA, therefore, would prefer to shift the investigation to the Senate back burner.

This is merely one manifestation of the CIA's grim, new determination to keep out of the headlines in the future. For the CIA is largely behind the drive to tighten security in Washington.

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**A**S A RESULT of this backstage push, both houses of Congress are preparing to take a new look at the secrecy question. There is growing sentiment on Capitol Hill, led by Representative Charles Bennett, (Dem-Fla.), to give the federal government the power to jail news leakers. President Carter, meanwhile, is trying to limit the number of people who have access to secret documents.

There are legitimate secrets, of course, which the government should protect. But invariably, the classification power is used to protect government officials, not to protect the country. It is perilous to empower those who direct the people's business to decide which facts cannot be divulged, under pain of a prison sentence.