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Card

The Honorable Burr P. Harrison
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Harrison:

I appreciated your letter of 27 April concerning an editorial in the Richmond NEWS LEADER. We have indeed seen the editorial and, in fact, one of our senior officials talked recently to Mr. Jack Kilpatrick who, I believe, is the author of the editorial.

The question raised in your letter concerns, as you suggest, the protection of the confidential character of certain types of operations. To safeguard security in this respect we have felt that we should not engage in controversy with the press regarding allegations they may make. To deny the false might imply that silence in other cases confirmed what was not denied. In many cases we are concerned with half-truths or alerted statements which could only be dealt with by explanations rather than by a flat affirmative or negative.

The problem is a complicated one, and I should prefer to deal with it orally rather than burden you with a written explanation. I suggest that we discuss the matter at your convenience if you wish further information.

Faithfully yours,

~~SECRET~~
Allen D. Dulles
Director

LBK:rm 7 May 53
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.
April 27, 1953

Hon. Allen W. Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I enclose a clipping of an editorial which appeared in the Richmond (Virginia) News Leader on March 30, 1953, and which may be of interest to you if it has not been called to your attention previously.

While I recognize that methods of secrecy must be used to accomplish a mission of secrecy, I find disturbing the repetition of the allegation that the CIA "slipped subsidies of millions of dollars to the American Federation of Labor, (David) Dubinsky, the Garment Workers Union, and a mysterious group of persons unknown * * *".

Inasmuch as the American Federation of Labor, the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union and Mr. David Dubinsky are not, insofar as I know, employes of, or contractors for, the United States Government, and, inasmuch as they do not have public records of experience in intelligence work, I should like to ask you, as the new director of CIA:

"Has the CIA paid, promised, or in any manner made available, funds of the United States Government to the American Federation of Labor, the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union or Mr. David Dubinsky, and, if so, to what extent and for what purpose?"

It is with the thought that the CIA will enjoy support for what is understood to be its important mission in the interest of national defense only so long as public confidence is not shaken by indications the agency is engaging in tangential undertakings that I direct this inquiry.

Sincerely yours,



Burr P. Harrison

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