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LAWMAKERS VOICE DISMAY OVER INMAN

Admiral Described as 'Our Link to Reality and Credibility'

By ANN CRITTENDEN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 21 — Congressmen on both sides of the aisle and at each end of the political spectrum reacted with dismay today to the sudden resignation of Adm. Bobby Inman as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.

"I don't know of any other person in the business who commands the same credibility and respect on both sides of the aisle," said Representative C. W. Bill Young, Republican of Florida, a minority member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Norman Y. Mineta, Democrat of California, another member of the committee, said, "I'm thoroughly disappointed. He was our link to reality and credibility."

Remarking that Admiral Inman was consistently responsive to Congressional requests for information, Representative Mineta recalled a hearing in which Representative Romano L. Mazzoli, Democrat of Kansas, had asked Mr. Inman, "Do we have to ask you the right question in order to get what we need?" The response, Mr. Mineta said was, "Absolutely not."

'He Was Very Open'

"When he came before the committee he was very open," Mr. Young said. "If he felt he wasn't being asked the right questions, he would volunteer information. That's very unusual in his business."

"I can understand why he might want to get out of this business," Mr. Young went on. "It's a very depressing business. I know he was really frustrated at not being able to make public a lot of information about Nicaragua and El Salvador, because of the danger of compromising intelligence sources. I had the same frustration."

Soon after Admiral Inman came on the job, there were rumors that a new executive order was being prepared to permit the Central Intelligence Agency to engage in domestic spying. Admiral Inman appeared on a popular television show and stoutly denied that such a broadening of the agency's authority would occur.

"Instead of battling it out within the circles there, he took it public," Mr. Mineta said.

On the Senate side, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Democrat of Hawaii, issued the following statement: "I regret very much the Admiral's resignation. The intelligence community, and more importantly, the nation, will lose the services of a most dedicated and talented intelligence officer. I will miss him and I wish him the very best in his future endeavors."

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