

WLP

MSC

House Hearings on Unification Legislation.

1. The following are excerpts from today's hearing of the House Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Department on unification legislation, at which Vice Admiral Radford was a witness.

DORN: (Rep. W. J. Bryan Dorn, D., S.C.) -- With respect to the Central Intelligence Agency -- I may be wrong, but I have felt that if Admiral Kimmel had had proper intelligence information, the attack on Pearl Harbor would not have occurred, and we would have been able to meet it better. From your point of view, do you not think that this Central Intelligence Agency bill would warrant the passage of this bill?

RADFORD: Of course, I think it is most important, and it is in existence now. It is already functioning.

DORN: Yes, but it exists now only by Executive Order. It needs something more than that.

RADFORD: I think that it is probably perfectly adequate for its purpose. I don't think it would die with the end of the Executive Order powers.

JUDD: (Rep. Walter H. Judd, R., Minn.) -- Regarding the Central Intelligence Agency, do you think that it ought to be under the National Security Council, or directly under the Secretary of National Defense, on a par with the Munitions Board, the Research and Development Board, and the National Security Council Board? The Central Intelligence Agency is put under the National Security Council, so that it has a dozen heads. It needs to be that this is so important that it ought to be on a par with the other agencies.

RADFORD: ... I feel that the Central Intelligence Agency should be under the National Security Council.

JUDD: You don't think that its reports will make sense and never get any action?

RADFORD: I hardly think so. I think it is important to have the Agency. I think its handling of reports can be done by the Director. I am sure it would be.

2. Following the hearings, Admiral Zacharias offered to drive me back to the office. Just before that, he had apparently asked one of the Committee staff members about appearing again before the Committee in executive session; for I heard her say, "If the Council sees that you want to appear, we will let you know in sufficient time." On the way back to the office, Zacharias remarked that tomorrow would be CIG day at the hearings. He added, however, that he did not know that he should appear at tomorrow's hearings; that he had not seen the proposed CIG Enabling Act, and thus did not know its provisions and that possibly it contained some of the things he was advocating.

He then went on to say that he wanted to urge the Committee to add two functions to the CIA provisions of the bill: (1) the Voice of America program, and (2) supervisory authority over domestic counter-intelligence. Regarding the first, he said that you had thrown up your hands when he had mentioned it to you. However, he added that someone must take responsibility for the propaganda program that the State Department would never make a success of it, and that an intelligence agency — which possessed the necessary intelligence concerning a given country — was the logical one to direct propaganda toward that country. He remarked that he doubted that General Striberg — or Admiral Hillenkoetter — saw the picture as a whole!

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