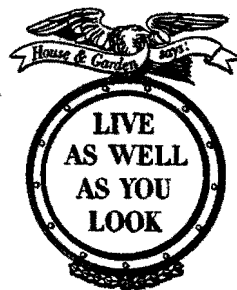


HOUSE & GARDEN

The Condé Nast Publications Inc.
420 Lexington Avenue, New York 17

September 5, 1950



Dear Lt. Gen. Smith:

I cannot tell you how delighted I was to hear of your appointment as the Director of Central Intelligence Agency.

I do not know whether you will have anything to do with censorship of war news but I hope so. At the moment we seem to be suffering from a bad case of frothing-at-the-mouth.

For example, on August 19 the newspapers announced that General J. Lawton Collins and Admiral Forrest P. Sherman would leave by air the following day for Tokyo. Wouldn't it be better to announce their return after their mission is accomplished?

On the same day, one reads about a New York radar expert who is being held as part of a spy ring. The exact address of the building in which he works (Reeves Instrument Company, 215 East 91st Street) is given. The article states further that some of the latest top-secret research on guided missiles is being conducted for the United States Air Force and Navy in this building!

These are just two isolated examples. Must we tell everybody all of our business all the time in order to be considered a democracy?

Sincerely yours,

Albert Kornfeld
Albert Kornfeld
Editor-in-Chief

AK:LW

Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith,
Director of Central Intelligence Agency,
Washington, D. C.

11 September 1950

Mr Albert Kornfeld, Editor-in-Chief
House and Garden
420 Lexington Avenue
New York 17, NY



Dear Mr Kornfeld:

Thanks very much for your cordial message on my new appointment. Notes of confidence like yours are a great boost to my morale at this time.

I don't believe I'm going to be charged with censorship or security and I certainly hope not. This is going to be difficult enough without playing the role of Pandora as well. I share your views completely with regard to the recent unnecessary and senseless security breaches. It should be obvious to all of us that there are times in the life of a democracy when we must voluntarily sacrifice certain of our liberties to safeguard them for the future.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

W. B. SMITH

HJ