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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF**PROGRAM** The Scene Tonight**STATION** WMAL TV**DATE** September 18, 1974

6:00 PM

CITY

Washington, D.C.

COMMENTARY BY JOSEPH McCAFFREY

WES SARGINSON: The flap aroused on Monday when President Ford outlined the involvement of the CIA in the internal affairs of Chile has developed into a substantial international controversy. Chile's military junta denies that the CIA assisted the armed forces in the bloody overthrow of Marxist President Salvador Allende last year. In an attempt to set their side of the story straight, the President and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger plan to brief congressional leaders on the scope of secret CIA operations tomorrow.

President Ford's explanation of the CIA's involvement in Chile has done little to lessen the criticism of U. S. action there. In his comment tonight, Channel 7's Joseph McCaffrey questions whether we should support either press or political parties in other countries.

JOSEPH McCAFFREY: What right does the federal government have to spend taxpayer's money to bolster the press and to buy politicians in Chile, or any other country, for that matter? Why should the United States of America get involved in any of the internal affairs of any country?

We condemn Russia for such activities, but then we use Russia's actions as an excuse for doing the same thing ourselves.

Would we be destroyed if we stopped such illegal, immoral action? Could we survive by doing something that seems to have gone out of fashion, both at home and abroad; namely, mind our own business?

We ought to try it. It would be refresing. But most important, it would be in keeping with the spirit of the American heritage.

Joseph McCaffrey from the park bench.

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