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ESPIONAGE: Raborn Takes Helm of CIA

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is a fledgling among the spy services of the world's great powers. It was created in 1949. Also, unlike such spy systems as Britain's or the Soviet Union's, its director has been a man of prominence whose identity is publicly known.

Walter Bedell Smith, who took over the CIA from its original chief, Rear Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, was a former ambassador to Moscow. Smith was named in 1950 in a shakeup at the start of the Korean war. Allen W. Dulles, brother of the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, took the post in 1953 and held it until he retired shortly after the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961. Then President John F. Kennedy picked John A. McCone as CIA director. McCone had served as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.



Adm. Raborn

Aerojet Executive

Last week President Johnson chose another prominent man to head the agency—Vice Adm. William F. Raborn Jr. (ret.), who was in charge of developing the Polaris submarine missile system and has been vice president of Aerojet General Corp. for the past 18 months. Raborn takes over from McCone who announced his intention to retire and return to his home and private business interests in San Marino, Calif., last December.

Raborn, 59, was born in Decatur, Tex., and raised in Oklahoma. The red-haired admiral is known as a take-charge man who gets things done. He was a Navy flier, gunnery instructor, ship commander and in 1962 became director of the Navy's Special Projects Office which developed the Polaris for subs. His research command was credited with many technological breakthroughs, including a new navigational system to be used by the missile-launching subs.

Raborn, who now lives in Pasadena, has been a friend of Mr. Johnson for 15 years.

The President also selected Richard McGarrah Helms, 52, to be deputy director of the CIA. Helms has been involved in intelligence work since World War II when he served with the Navy's Office of Strategic Services.