

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Newsline

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LATEST FLAP OVER CIA

NEWSCASTER: "The Central Intelligence Agency is in the news spotlight again. Last week, you will recall, the CIA found itself in hot water after its new Director, Richard Helms, had written a letter to the editor of a St. Louis newspaper praising an editorial in that paper that was critical of Senator J. William Fulbright. He, of course, is Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Well, Helms apologized for the letter last Friday.

"Well, now the latest flap over the CIA also revolves around one of its highly paid men and Bill Diehl has that story."

DIEHL: "The CIA is continuing its investigation today into the affairs of one of its high level officials, 55-year old Hans V. Tofte. Tofte came under a CIA probe after classified documents were found in his Georgetown home by another CIA man who was looking for a place to live. The story took on further ramifications when Tofte reported some \$20,000 in jewelry was missing. Tofte says the theft was discovered shortly after two CIA officials returned to his home and recovered the documents.

"Tofte says the document in question were on the third floor of his home in a library where he worked. He said they were not in plain view and, furthermore, it's customary for CIA executives and senior personnel to take papers home.

"Tofte said the new CIA Director, Richard Helms, is an old friend and he'd like to see him, but so far, has had no success. We interviewed Mr. Tofte this morning."

"How do you think you're going to come out in all this?"

TOFTE: "I have no idea. But I do know that since I came over here as a refugee, it was first the OSS, then the CIA. That's the sort of thing my family -- I know I have many, many good friends. The thing that irks me is that the system has worked out in such a way that it looks as if you can be dropped as an old banana peel without seeing your best friends.

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"So, when I found that my home was invaded -- and my lawyer calls it grand larceny -- and my 86-year old mother-in-law, my senior citizen, was bamboozled, I was outraged. Nobody pushes my family around, and nobody pushes any senior citizen around in my presence."

DIEHL: "Meanwhile, J. C. Chatel, a realtor who now owns the house, says he's considering legal action against the CIA for illegal entry. Tofte has been with the CIA about 16 years. He has worked with the Office of Strategic Services in World War II, won him nation's Legion of Merit.

"So far, the CIA has said little except that exposed classified documents in a private home is a violation of agency security regulations."