

27 April 1966

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In the current Ramparts magazine a former coordinator of the university's projects charges that from 1957-59 the university offered cover for and worked and cooperated with the CIA. Prof. Ralph Smuckler, acting dean of the office of international programs at Michigan State, says that the Ramparts article is distorted but admits that there was a reluctant relationship with the CIA in Saigon. Prof. Robert Scigliano, former assistant chief of the project, says that it is "absolutely correct" that the university had acted as a "cover for the CIA" team.

Obviously the CIA must, as an intelligence agency, operate in political areas. But here it was operating with a group which was creating a government, in effect, and training it.

Other American universities with special competence have worked and are working in other nations. The revelation that one university served as a CIA cover is likely to make all such work suspect in the future. There is suspicion enough about American aid programs without throwing gasoline on the fire by mixing up technical and educational training with intelligence operations and even espionage. It is unfortunate that Michigan State let itself in for such business and unwise for the CIA to sully legitimate aid programs with cloak and dagger operations.

The CIA and Universities

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF

HON. ROBERT W. KASTENMEIER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 1966

Mr. KASTENMEIER. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked to learn of the relationship which exists between the Central Intelligence Agency and several of our universities. Michigan State University officials have admitted that the CIA used the MSU technical assistance project in South Vietnam as a cover for their own activities. On April 26, 1966, the center of international studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced that it would sever connections with the CIA at the end of June.

Any such association naturally throws suspicion upon the activities of the American universities overseas, particularly those engaged in technical assistance programs in the underdeveloped nations.

As a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, I sincerely hope that that great institution will not become involved in any manner with any of the questionable and compromising activities generally associated with the CIA.

It is in this respect that I call the attention of my colleagues to an editorial which recently appeared in the Milwaukee Journal.

THE CIA AND MICHIGAN STATE

Even back in 1957 the story in Saigon was that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was "hidden" behind some of the American aid programs there—even those of Michigan State University. Michigan State had a 7-year, multimillion-dollar technical assistance project in Vietnam. Its professors and technicians trained police and government officials and did other work for the Diem regime. Prof. Wesley Fischel, of Michigan State has often been mentioned as one of the men who helped install the late Ngo Dinh Diem as President of South Vietnam.

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superclandestine agency, ostensibly founded for intelligence gathering purposes, has turned into an organization with its own foreign service, air force, political desks, military staffs, and combat forces.

Not content with rivaling the Department of State for the responsibility of making and carrying out foreign policy, the CIA now appears to be involved in domestic affairs. I would like to commend to the attention of my colleagues an editorial which appeared recently in the Washington Post dealing with this topic.

ABOVE THE LAW

The Central Intelligence Agency is currently engaged in an attempt to deny any means of redress to a man whose character it has ruthlessly assassinated. By an open admission of its Deputy Director, a CIA operative named Juri Raus was instructed to defame an Estonian, Eerik Heine, active in the Estonian community in the United States by bruiting it about that Mr. Heine was a covert Soviet agent. Mr. Heine sued for slander. Mr. Raus does not deny that he made the offending statements. At the same time he makes no effort to defend them as truthful. He merely submits to the court a CIA assertion that he said what he said on instructions from his superiors, that what he said is therefore privileged and that Mr. Heine's suit ought to be dismissed on these grounds.

The law is probably on the side of the CIA. In 1950, the Supreme Court decided, by 5 to 4, a case, *Barr v. Matteo*, holding that two subordinate officials of the Office of Rent Stabilization had an absolute privilege against a suit for libel based upon a press release they had issued. Chief Justice Warren, in a dissenting opinion, said prophetically and, we think, altogether soundly that the decision would have the "effect of deterring the desirable public discussion of all aspects of our Government and the conduct of its officials. It will sanctify the powerful and silence debate. This is a much more serious danger than the possibility that a Government official might occasionally be called upon to defend his actions and to respond in damages for a malicious defamation."

We make no judgment as to the merits of the controversy between Messrs. Raus and Heine. But, we think it intolerable that Government officials should hold an unlimited license for slander. If, as the CIA asserts, "It would be contrary to the security interests of the United States" to release the information relevant to Mr. Raus' defense, then the CIA ought to indemnify Mr. Heine for the injury done to him. The United States has other interests than security; it has an interest in justice and in the integrity of its courts. We think that a Federal judge ought to have the power to say to the CIA what Judge Albert Reeves said to the FBI when that agency tried to withhold relevant information in the trial of Judith Coplon in 1949: "If it turns out that the Government has come into court exposing itself, then it will have to take the peril. If it embarrasses the Government to disclose relevant material, then the Government ought not to be here."

This case raises some other vital questions. What on earth is the CIA doing trying to manipulate the affairs of the Estonian community in the United States? This kind of interference in the political actions of foreign nationality groups amounts, in our judgment, to a most dangerous sort of subversion, a pollution of one of the main currents of American political life. The CIA ought to be excluded absolutely from involvement in domestic affairs.

The CIA in Domestic Affairs

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