

S. 54,498

Front Page
Edit Page
Other Page

Date: JAN 30 1966

A Billion for CIA Hidden Among Guns and Butter

By EDWARD J. MICHELSON

WASHINGTON — Hidden in the Johnson administration budget for next year is at least \$1 billion to be spent by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The fact that the sum, about 11 per cent of all Federal expenditures for fiscal 1967, is concealed in the budget estimates is no secret.

But the way in which it is concealed is known only to a handful of veteran legislators. Many of the others have long resented CIA's privacy.

The agency is the largest of several comprising the "intelligence community." For nearly 20 years, it has never been subjected to review by congressional investigators. Although the main work of the more than 15,000 employees headquartered in a huge building in nearby Langley, Va., has to do merely with research and analysis, the agency also gets involved in cloak-and-dagger work.

It is the rumored blunders in the cloak-and-dagger department—espionage and government-toppling in the Middle East, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Viet Nam, Singapore and elsewhere—that has whetted the curiosity of long irate congressmen.

AS A RESULT, pending bills

to subject CIA to closer congressional surveillance are taking years.

en more seriously than in past years. The major bill, which would set up a joint congressional "watchdog" committee for central intelligence, has been pushed in the Senate for many years by Montana's Mike Mansfield, now the majority leader.

In 1956 he was successful in getting the bill to the floor for a vote, where it was rejected 57-29. The opposition of Chairman Carl Hayden, D-Ariz., of the Appropriations Committee, Chairman Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., of the Armed Services Committee, and Sen. Leverett Saltonstall, R-Mass., now the ranking minority member of both units, were responsible for Mansfield's defeat.

In the House the chief sponsor is an administration stalwart and ranking Foreign Affairs Committee Democrat, Clement Zablocki of Milwaukee. Zablocki has long felt there should be a check on the competence of CIA agents assigned to strategic overseas service, and on the care with which huge, unvouchered sums are spent.

In the past year, the House forces favoring the watchdog unit have increased as liberal Democratic young Turks have offered companion bills. They would go further than tougher surveillance, however. Typical

is Rep. William Fitts Ryan of New York, who would strip CIA of all operations and limit its role to research and analysis.

SEN. SALTONSTALL, made it clear he will stand firm in this, his final year in public life, against any change in CIA's status. He was chief sponsor of legislation in the Republican-controlled 80th Congress setting up CIA as a descendant of the wartime Office of Strategic Services, commanded by the late Maj. Gen. William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan.

Saltonstall says CIA is "a fact-finding agency with no policy-making powers. The agency provides information to the military services and the National Security Council for decision-making. The 'guerrilla warfare' activities are undertaken by CIA on orders from higher authority. CIA is assigned them because no other governmental agency is set up for such tasks."

Sen. Saltonstall says a great power must have such secret intelligence services, including covert operations, because of conditions in the world today. He cites British Intelligence, which goes back to the Wars of the Roses in the 15th Century. The funds used by this organization, oldest of its kind in the world, are known to very few government leaders. The

Continued

MORI/CDF