

SECRET

Ed Haakinson
Symington, Stuart

27 January 1960

Col. Grogan
MEMORANDUM FOR ~~THE~~ DIRECTOR

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Ed Haakinson covered the Symington Press Conference for the ASSOCIATED PRESS. John Scali informally and for his own information asked him how the Conference went. He said there were a considerable number of questions, but they didn't add up to too much. He said Symington was asked: "Are you accusing the President of deliberately distorting this (intelligence) information? If so, why do you not impeach him?" He replied: "That is unthinkable."
3. Symington was then asked: "Why didn't you oppose the approval of the Gates' nomination?" He replied: "Gates is a new man and that is not the way to solve this problem."
4. The next question was: "Are you familiar with Mr. Dulles' speech?" His answer: "Yes, I am." He was then asked: "Are you charging that the Administration is deliberately using CIA to manipulate its intelligence so as to present an untrue picture?" Haakinson said he never did directly answer that question but turned to the Press Release of this morning and read again about:

"The American people (are) being enticed down the trail of insecurity by the issuance of misinformation about our deterrent power; and specifically about the missile gap.

"The intelligence books have been juggled so the budget books may be balanced."
5. Haakinson said he thought that a radio station might have been making a recording. I am looking into that so that if there were a tape or transcript, we will get it.

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STANLEY J. GROGAN
Assistant to the Director

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