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MCCARTHY RESOLUTION MAY BE REVISED

JOSEPH McCAFFREY: "Always read it before you sign it. Always read it before you sign it. This will be the working motto of the underground CIA from now on, because it now develops that the man in charge of world spy didn't read the letter that an assistant drafted to send to the editor of the St. Louis Globe Democrat, which was not intended for publication, and which merely meant to thank the paper for something nice about the CIA, but instead ended up endorsing the newspaper's stinging attack on Senator William Fulbright. That is how it all came out today.

"Today, CIA Director Richard Helms shown here with the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee apologized for praising the editorial critical of the Senator. And for his part, the Senator accepted the apology.

"Although he has only held his present post for a short time, Mr. Helms is now as well known in that job as was the man who pioneered the Agency, Allen Dulles.

"Earlier today, Senator Wayne Morse had demanded that Helms be fired, but no one seems to be joining in this demand.

"Members of the Foreign Relations Committee feel that now they're one up on the CIA Director. And although in the past the CIA has shown a great reluctance to tell that Committee anything about its operations, it is thought that from now on Mr. Helms may look more kindly about Committee requests for information.

"It's now thought that the McCarthy Resolution, specifically calling for the naming of Foreign Relations members to the watchdog committee on CIA will be revised, that the objective of the resolution may have been accomplished.

"This was the scene after today's hearing with the Senator and the CIA Director."

HELMS: "I was just simply saying that it was mistake to have signed this letter. I realize the mistake, which I regret, and I've apologized."

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REPORTER: "Mr. Chairman, are you satisfied with the CIA Director Helms' testimony before your Committee?"

FULBRIGHT: "I thought his statement was a very forthright and honest statement. And he acknowledged that he'd made a mistake in signing this letter, that he explained the circumstances, which I think are understandable. And on the whole I think that he did an excellent job of explaining a mistake which any of us, of course, might make. But because of the sensitive nature of this Agency it aroused more concern than it normally does, of course."

REPORTER: "What were the circumstances?"

FULBRIGHT: "Well, the letter was prepared by an assistant and was submitted to him along with a number of other personal letters, as distinguished from, you know, business letters -- you see, he'd been recently appointed, and he simply signed it, as he said, without focusing upon the full significance of it."