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CIA attack example of congressional hypocrisy

The great flap that blew up in Washington a few days ago over the "revelation" that the U. S. may have given \$6 million to anti-Communist political parties in Italy is a prime example of congressional hypocrisy of the sort that seems determined to drive this nation down the road to self-destruction. Or to dump more of the world into-the-lap of the-Kremlin, which adds up to the same thing.

WHAT IS AT issue is not the wisdom of shelling out more cash for anything in Italy. That is a judgment call certainly open to question, for the Italians appear bent upon handing themselves over to the Communists eventually one way or another.

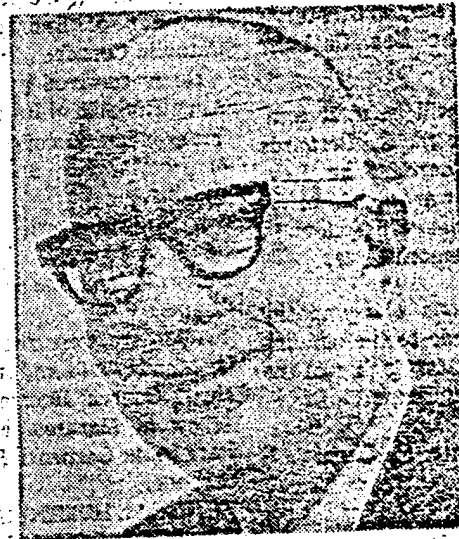
The big to-do over the \$6 million was and is a phony, a political stunt pulled for purely partisan or perhaps personal purposes. It was designed to damage the Ford administration and never mind the good of the country.

IT HAS SCARCELY been a secret to anyone who can hear or read or listen that the U. S. has been passing out cash and credit in huge amounts for the last 30 years to stave off the push of the Soviet Union. That was the idea behind President Harry Truman's original Greek-Turkish aid program, back of the Marshall Plan, underlying the creation of NATO itself where massive amounts of money, munitions and manpower have been shoved into Western Europe.

Naturally the CIA has had a piece of the action in the political arena; military relationships are conducted through formal channels. Now with the CIA bruised and battered after a year's presidential campaigning in the Senate

BY JERRY GREENE: HERALD COLUMNIST

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Investigating Committee, the spy agency was wide open for another haymaker.

SO WE ARE confronted with the spectacle of a member of Congress leaking word of the \$6 million for Italy to a small newspaper in California, whence the story spread quickly to a couple of eastern metropolitan papers and the television networks. Big deal. New scandal.

The leak has been widely attributed to Rep. Leo J. Ryan, a Democrat from South San Francisco and a member of the House International Relations Committee. Whether or not there was any admission of leak dribbling, Ryan appeared before TV cameras defending

publication of the information and insisting that leaks were justified if they can stop such distribution of funds.

THE FACT THAT members of congressional committees receiving classified information, including reports on CIA operations, are pledged to secrecy seems to matter not at all if an individual decides his personal judgment — not the will of the majority, not laws or regulations — is to guide the affairs of state.

If the California congressman has been selected as the people's choice to serve as the instrument for exercise of the national conscience, the designation has escaped general notice. Indeed, one is inclined to wonder why