

*Committee File*

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WATCHDOG COMMITTEE

HARRY K. SMITH: "An old feud might crop up again when Congress gets rolling.

"Joseph McCaffrey explains."

MCCAFFREY: "Over the years the thoughtful, professorial senior Senator from Minnesota, Eugene McCarthy, has sought to have the watchdog committee, which keeps an eye on the Central Intelligence Agency, expanded, so it will include other than only those members of Congress closely tied to the military through their other committee assignments.

"This is the present make up of the committee. But McCarthy thinks the role of the CIA affects more than the military, and, therefore, it would only be reasonable to add some members of the Foreign Relations Committee to the watchdog group.

"McCarthy probably will try again this year.

"But in the meantime, the CIA may become the focal point of another Congressional battle. The word on the Hill now is that there is a serious behind the scene fight going on over the role of the CIA.

"There are those in the Administration who feel the CIA should, in its reports, prove Administration policy correct.

"The CIA still clings to the old fashioned belief it was founded to collect information, and pass it on, and that generally from this information, policy should be worked out.

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"But there are those in high places who want it just the other way around.

"Specifically, the word on the Hill is that the CIA is not being faulted by certain top advisers, because it doesn't devote itself to proving that the bombing of North Vietnam has been highly successful.

"The CIA for its part is bringing in reports on conditions as they are. But these reports don't bear out what some in the government want borne out, specifically, that the bombing of North Vietnam is highly successful -- that it's setting the Communists back at least weeks, if not months.

"There's an indication that a survey of CIA reports might find this reasoning hogwash.

"Who settles such an argument?

"If it's left to the present military oriented CIA watchdog committee, then the CIA may be directed to go out and find enough facts to justify the preconceived idea.

"If it's left to some other committee to study, it could be that the CIA would be reinforced in its belief that it is an information gathering agency, and not an agency to be manipulated to prove out policy decisions."