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Who'll Succeed Allen Dulles?

The Washington grapevine has it that GEN. MAXWELL D. TAYLOR, 60, is PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S "likeliest choice" to replace ALLEN W. DULLES as director of Central Intelligence. DULLES, at 68, has been planning for some time to end his long government career, including eight years as head of CIA.

GEN. TAYLOR achieved international renown as commander of the famed 101st Airborne Division, the first division in history to receive the presidential citation, as a unit.



Gen. Taylor

After VE-Day, in 1945, he became the 37th superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point, the youngest head of that institution since DOUGLAS MACARTHUR. In that capacity he promptly modernized the curriculum to include broader studies, and instituted more rigid screening of applicants recommended by members of Congress.

"Cadets," he was quoted, in summing up the policy, "should not live in a mental cloister; their interests must be catholic, avoiding the narrow horizons sometimes attributed to the military mind."

From tributes paid his brilliance, we infer that GEN. TAYLOR's horizons are anything but narrow.

Washington rumor factories have been working overtime since the Cuban fiasco, for which the CIA is being held primarily responsible by its critics.

There is even a rumor that ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT KENNEDY will eventually be tapped for the super-secret, super-sensitive job now held by DULLES. Com-



Bob Kennedy

pared to the brilliant veteran of two wars, young Mr. BOB is a mere shavetail. His inexperience, and his impetuous decision to intervene *personally* in the Prince Edward deadlock would seem enough to disqualify him, should the President submit his brother for Senate approval. (BOB KENNEDY and TAYLOR are both on the presidential task force studying CIA.)

The fateful responsibility of the man at the master switchboard of Central Intelligence eliminates that post as the destination for BROTHER BOB, or anyone else, whose political ineptitude makes it convenient to have him "kicked upstairs."

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The CIA has been an enigma wrapped in mystery for the past 10 years.

No one outside its ironic curtain knows its halting average.

Proposals (in 1956) for a congressional committee to oversee CIA were voted down in the Senate, 59 to 27. The proposal had been made by SENATOR MANSFIELD of Montana, now majority leader.

Last week MANSFIELD called for an "overhaul" of Intelligence, but, presumably at the suggestion of the White House, did not repeat his suggestion of a supervisory committee.

However, a new climate of critical apprehension prevails since the Cuban affair. There is also a growing curiosity about how many un-audited tax billions have been spent by CIA since 1951.

When asked on that point at an editors' briefing conference a week ago, MR. DULLES grinned broadly and replied that all he could say was that "it was not seven billion."

Quite obviously Central Intelligence, even when restricted rigidly to the gathering of information (and precluded from suggesting policy), must work in strictest secrecy.

But we see no reason why CIA should not function equally well under supervision by a special committee.

Its top secrets would be no more in danger than those now revealed to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.