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New CIA Boss Is Recognized for Solid Achievements

BY ROBERT HILBURN

Chronicle Washington Bureau

Washington—The nation's new master spy is a gullible fellow, by his own account.

In the spy business, this is not the most salubrious of traits, and for retired Vice Adm. William F. Raborn Jr., it might give a leg up to the opposition.

It might, that is, if this weakness of the director designate of the Central Intelligence Agency extended beyond his hobby, which is growing roses. As any hobbyist can attest, gullibility in pursuit of the ultimate is no vice.

Raborn, 59, who soon will take over command of the cloak-and-dagger corps, bit once and bit hard in his zeal to coax a crop of champion rose blossoms into bloom.

Bit for Fish Story

Someone told him (with happy malice, it later developed) that spading old fish heads into the soil would work wonders.

Raborn promptly paid a call upon a seafood eatery and from

its perplexed management ordered two barrels of left-over fish crania, then hired three workers to help with the fertilizing.

It was a hot day. The aroma got worse the longer they toiled. Two of the workers, overcome with nausea, retired to the alley. Raborn and the other finished the job.

The admiral went to bed that night dreaming of rosebuds, but rest was not to be his lot.

Went to the Dogs

Growling and snarling, a pack consisting of all the neighborhood dogs descended on the rose garden, digging up the noise-some fertilizer—and Raborn's prized bushes with it.

It was not only the end of an experiment but the emergence of a wiser rose gardener as well.

Boss of Polaris

Raborn, a native of Decatur (Wise County), tell this yarn on himself. The fact that he can—and does—tells quite a bit about this seadog who became an avia-



WILLIAM F. RABORN JR.
Roses Are His Hobby

tor, then a submariner and now, No. 1 snooper.

In a profession well larded with pomposity, Adm. Raborn achieved an early reputation as a good-humored nice guy, withal

one who could still get things done.

Although he gained distinction as a brave and gallant World War II flat-top commander, his biggest naval achievement, was the Polaris submarine, which today remains one of the prime deterrents to nuclear war.

It was Raborn who was chosen late in 1955 to head the Navy's special projects office, which was charged with developing an underseas ballistics missile.

Raborn brought to the project not only zeal but a persuasion technique that became known as the "Raborn Rededication Treatment."

He delivered pep talks about the country, at every plant and subplant that had anything to do with the far-flung program.

Beat the Schedule

The treatment and a managerial system he evolved—now widely used throughout industry—got results. The first Polaris submarine became operational in 1960, three years ahead of schedule.

"He had the knack," one of his subalterns of this period re-

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<p>calls, "of getting people to do things because they wanted to.</p>	<p>occupied the post in the early 1950s).</p>	<p>scientists, engineers and physicians supporting the Democratic standard bearers.</p>	<p>but evidence is lacking that they were particularly close friends.</p>
<p>"It never occurred to any of us that we were not working on the most important project it was possible for us to be working on on this Earth."</p>	<p>On the credit side, in addition to his eminence as a "can do" man, Raborn was responsible for maintaining the secrecy of the Polaris program and the studying of foreign nuclear weapons development.</p>	<p>Raborn during the show ridiculed Johnson's opponent, Barry Goldwater, saying the former Arizona senator was "just not smart enough to be President of the United States."</p>	<p>Although he was born in Texas, Raborn was brought up in Oklahoma and went from there to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.</p>
<p>Says another: "We worked all the harder just to prove you don't have to have an S.O.B. running a program like this."</p>	<p>Besides, his mind is inventive and open to suggestion.</p>	<p>The admiral, of course, had an acquaintance with Johnson when the latter was a senator</p>	<p>Despite this, the 59-year-old warrior remains proud of the state of his origin. He lists San Antonio as his official residence.</p>
<p>Succeeds Dour Man</p>	<p>"I am not the kind of man," he has been quoted as saying, "who when he puts his pants on in the morning thinks the whole world is dressed."</p>	<p>When the latter was a senator</p>	
<p>Gregarious and down-to-earth, Raborn will bring this same set of talents to his new assignment, and at the very outset his manner will stamp a sunnier image of the CIA in contrast to the somewhat dour impression left by his predecessor, John A. McCone, who is retiring.</p>	<p>In the end, though, it reportedly was Raborn's popularity that led President Johnson to tap him for the job.</p>	<p>He is well thought of on Capitol Hill, and the same applies at the Pentagon from Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara on down the line.</p>	
<p>But just how well Raborn's acknowledged abilities will serve him in the spy field has led to some criticism.</p>	<p>He is well thought of on Capitol Hill, and the same applies at the Pentagon from Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara on down the line.</p>	<p>What may have clinched it for Johnson was that Raborn appeared on a paid television show last year in behalf of the Johnson-Humphrey ticket.</p>	
<p>Not Without Experience</p>	<p>Campaigned for LBJ</p>	<p>The show was sponsored by</p>	
<p>He has had no significant experience in intelligence activities, and there are those who feel a military man should not have charge of the CIA, although there is precedence for this. (Gen. Walter Bedell Smith</p>	<p>What may have clinched it for Johnson was that Raborn appeared on a paid television show last year in behalf of the Johnson-Humphrey ticket. The show was sponsored by</p>		