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SPIRITED DEFENSE OF CIA

CPYRGHT

NEED COLLINS: President Johnson gave a medal today to Admiral William Raborn, retiring as director of the Central Intelligence Agency. CBS News White House correspondent, Robert Pierpoint, reports the story.

PIERPOINT: President Johnson today undertook a spirited defense of the Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA has been under rather heavy criticism lately for a series of embarrassing public problems that Mr. Johnson indicated overshadowed its much more private exploits.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON: It is the lot of those in our intelligence agencies that they should work in silence, sometimes fail in silence, but more often succeed in silence. Unhappily also it is sometimes their lot that they must suffer in silence, for like all in high public positions, they are occasionally subject to criticism, which they must not answer.

PIERPOINT: The President's praise for CIA came during a ceremony in which he awarded Admiral William Raborn, recently retired CIA Director, the National Security Medal.

Mr. Johnson said Admiral Raborn had done an outstanding job during the one year he headed the nation's top spy organization.