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Helms Denies C.I.A. Sets Policy, Wins Approval of Senate Panel

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WASHINGTON, June 23

(AP)—The man chosen to be the new Director of Central Intelligence stepped out of the official shadows briefly today to disclaim any policymaking role for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Richard M. Helms, named by President Johnson Saturday to succeed William F. Raborn as director of the agency, received a friendly reception from the Senate Armed Services Committee.

His nomination was approved by the committee after a series of questions relating to the dispute over the Senate's C.I.A. supervision, now in the hands of a panel of seven headed by Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia, chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

However, the Foreign Relations Committee contends that the C.I.A. activities have an impact on foreign policy and has approved a resolution that would put three of its members on Senator Russell's C.I.A. subcommittee. The subcommittee is now limited to senior members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees.

Approval Needed

Sitting at the end of a long table, Mr. Helms said, "There is never any effort to influence the President's decision one way or the other" on foreign policy.

He said "the C.I.A. takes no action without the appropriate approval of the appropriate officials of the U.S. Government and they are not in the C.I.A."

Mr. Helms pictured the agency as being under the close supervision of the National Security Council, headed by the President, and with a budget

that is gone over line by line by the Budget Bureau.

He said also that C.I.A. missions overseas are, by Presidential fiat, under the authority of the ambassadors and cannot go off on their own.

"This is quite clear," Mr. Helms said.

Rebuff by Raborn

The present dispute stems in part from Mr. Raborn's refusal to answer some questions put to him by Senator J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, and the Foreign Relations Committee in a February briefing. Mr. Raborn in a letter to Mr. Fulbright last week said the only questions he had declined to answer dealt with sources and methods, not "substantive intelligence information."

Senator Leverett Saltonstall, Massachusetts, the ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee and a member of the C.I.A. subcommittee, asked Mr. Helms today whether it was his intention to give committees of Congress information they request, within the limits on his authority imposed by the President.

"That is my intention," Mr. Helms replied. Afterward Senator Russell said that Mr. Helms meant he would give any information "except sources and methods." And Senator Russell said the bar against giving such data was "Spelled out in the law."

Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, told Mr. Helms that the charges that his agency makes foreign policy was "a great tribute to the high degree of professionalism and competence" within the agency.

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