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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Scherer-McNeil Report

STATION WRC-TV
NBC Network

DATE June 18, 1966 6:30 PM

CITY Washington, DC.

CPYRGHT

HELMS SUCCEEDS RAYBORN

RAY SCHERER: "The President announced to his news conference today, Admiral William F. Rayborn is stepping out as head of the Central Intelligence Agency after barely a year of service. The Rayborn successor will be 53 year old Richard Helms. He becomes the first career man to head the intelligence agency. Helms joined the CIA at its birth 19 years ago.

"The change in command comes on the eve of a threatened floor battle in the Senate over an attempt by the Foreign Relations Committee to gain a share in a watchdog setup over the intelligence agency, and there have been continuing criticisms of the CIA as being heavy handed in various areas of American foreign policy.

"If any of these factors are involved in the Rayborn resignation, the President gave no hint of it today. He said he was accepting the resignation of the one-time Polar submarine Admiral with regret, and said Rayborn had only agreed to serve for a certain time, and now wanted to return to his home in California."