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Economy Holiday? See Your CIA Agent

Special to Newsday.

Washington—It hasn't happened yet, but the super-secret Central Intelligence Agency may yet become the fun branch of the federal government.

Delightful, carefree all-expenses-paid vacations for themselves and their families would be offered to the fellas and gals over at CIA under a bill the agency hopes to get through Congress. Such government-paid vacations are something even Senators can't take without a good junket and a bad conscience.

The vacation bill was one of three curious items that came to light yesterday involving the care and feeding of modern undercover agents. The other two were revealed in court papers. In Baltimore, the CIA took the unusual step of publicly identifying one of its agents, in order to defend him in a slander suit. That's rare affection on the part of the CIA. In Washington, a 25-year-old bachelor who was dismissed from the FBI for harboring a woman in his apartment overnight sued FBI director J. Edgar Hoover for invasion of privacy. That's rare temerity for a former FBI man.

Though the CIA doesn't like to talk about it, its secret agents are hard at work all over the world, from the

halls of Michigan State University to the shores of Vietnam. Sometimes the places they work are hot and the jobs they do are dirty. It's a nerve-wracking, pressure-filled business, and sometimes, the CIA has decided, a spy should be allowed to come in from the heat. The agency has proposed a bill that would allow those agents assigned to hardship posts to take fun-filled family vacations at government expense.

In a letter accompanying the bill, CIA director W. F. Raborn said an agent would be allowed to go to a vacation spot where he could "relax and obtain needed freedom from climatic and other conditions which cause his post of assignment to be designated as a hardship post."

As an example, Raborn wrote: "If an employe were stationed at a hardship post on the Gold Coast of Africa, he could be permitted to travel once during a two-year tour or twice during a three-year tour to the Canary Islands or possible Capetown, South Africa."

The bill is now before the House Armed Services Committee, and has not yet been introduced in Congress. The vacation provision was included without fanfare in a bill dealing with numerous routine personnel matters. That's the way the CIA does business. A CIA spokesman

said yesterday that Raborn had drafted his letter late last year, but that it took several months to get through the federal bureaucracy. Apparently that, too, is sometimes the way the CIA does business.

One way the CIA rarely does business is by identifying its agents. When U.S. spies are caught abroad the agency generally adopts a "Who, Me?" attitude. But CIA lawyers have admitted in Federal District Court, Washington, that Juri Raus, who passes as a \$10,000-a-year engineer in the Bureau of Public Roads, doubles as a CIA agent. They made the admission after Raus was sued for slander by a man accused of being a Soviet agent. The CIA lawyers contended that the suit should be dismissed because if Raus committed any slander it was an official act under orders from his superiors. The case is pending.

The suit against Hoover was filed by Thomas H. Carter, a former clerk in the FBI's fingerprinting division, who was dismissed for "conduct unbecoming an employe of this bureau" after agents investigated the fact that he had allowed his girl friend to stay in his apartment overnight. Carter asked the Federal District Court to reinstate him in his job, contending that the dismissal was arbitrary and capricious.