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STATINTL

A reasonable opportunity is afforded to responsible spokesmen for
views. Persons desiring to do so must make request within five days
of broadcast. WTOP reserves the right both to designate the spokesman
and to deny such requests if, in its judgment, substantially the same
viewpoints have been or are being fairly presented.

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BROADCAST HOUSE WASHINGTON, D.C. 244-5678

POST-NEWSWEEK STATIONS, A Division of the Washington Post Company

STATINTL

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RICHARD HELMS

(This Editorial was broadcast on July 29 and 30, 1966, over
WTOP Radio and Television.)

This is a WTOP Editorial.

The episode involving CIA boss Richard Helms and Senator J. William
Fulbright appears to have ended with nobody being badly wounded.

Mr. Helms has made a handsome apology to Senator Fulbright and the
Foreign Relations Committee and has freely acknowledged his mistake. That
occurred when Mr. Helms dropped a note to The St. Louis Globe-Democrat
praising an editorial titled "Brickbats for Fulbright." The editorial
praised the Senate vote against a resolution to add three members of the
Foreign Relations Committee to the CIA watchdog committee. The CIA is now
safe, The Globe-Democrat declared, "from the militant doves on Fulbright's
committee." Mr. Helms then wrote the newspaper expressing his pleasure
with the editorial which, he said, "reflects so well your paper's policy
of... supporting what it believes to be right and opposing what it believes
to be wrong without regard to party politics."

Senator Fulbright and numerous of his colleagues were understandably
upset by this exchange. But Mr. Helms made a voluntary appearance before
the Foreign Relations Committee and explained that the letter itself was
drafted by a subordinate and that he--Helms--signed it without recognizing
its full significance. That seemed to satisfy everyone--with the possible
exception of Wayne Morse--and the crisis is over.

We can't resist saying, however, that as we said in an editorial in
mid-May, the idea of having Foreign Relations represented on the watchdog
committee seems a quite good one. It's unfortunate that the proposal has
been rejected.

This was a WTOP Editorial, Jack Jurey speaking for WTOP.

CPYRGHT

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