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CPYRGHT

PROGRAM Today in Congress

STATION WMAL Radio

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CITY Washington, DC

EXCELLENT JOB OF EXPLAINING MISTAKE

JOSEPH McCAFFREY: "Senator J. William Fulbright reported today that CIA Director Richard Helms did an excellent job of explaining his mistake before a closed session of the Senator's Foreign Relations Committee.

"The mistake the Arkansas Democrat referred to was a letter Helms wrote praising a newspaper editorial which attacked Fulbright as being 'crafty'. The letter, published in the St. Louis Globe Democrat raised the ire of the Senate, prompted Oregon Democratic Senator Wayne Morse to call for Helms' resignation. Morse contended that until Helms resigns the public can't be sure the CIA is living up to its mandate not to operate within the United States or influence or participate in affairs within the United States.

"But Helms' apology and explanation seems to satisfy most of the Committee.

"Fulbright says the closed door exchange opened up a discussion of espionage areas his Committee had not previously been able to reach with CIA officials.

CPYRGHT "Minnesota's Senator Eugene McCarthy who has been trying for years to Congress create a special CIA watchdog committee with Foreign Relations representation said the incident opened up new avenues for discussion and possible compromise on the surveillance jurisdictional dispute."