

**\$2,500 a Month?**

"He came to my office and asked me, and about a dozen of his B-26 pilots could be given leave so they might go home to the country for four or five months," Gen. Hutchison said.

Montgomery, Doster said he could not comment on the report.

(The Associated Press Thursday night said the Chicago Sun-Times reported that 10 National guard pilots from Alabama, Arkansas and Virginia "were offered \$2,500 a month by the Central Intelligence Agency to take part in the Cuban Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.")

Gen. Doster said they'd been hired by the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency). Five of the Alabama guardsmen were killed in one operation, Hutchison said.

**Alabama in Charge**

Gen. Doster told him "in detail" about the Bay of Pigs invasion, Gen. Hutchison said. The Alabama Air Guard chief was to "supervise the air part of the invasion operations."

"They had plenty of air force down there, if he'd been permitted to use it," Hutchison said.

He said Gen. Doster took "a good number of pilots—about a dozen"—down to Guatemala for training.

"I want to point out," he said, "the regular air force had nothing to do with this operation, whatsoever."

**'On Civilian Status'**

"Gen. Doster and his men took leave of absence on a civilian status," Gen. Hutchison said.

One American air force fighter could have saved the entire invasion, he added. He said the U. S. learned in World War II and again in Korea that "no invasion can be successful without adequate air cover.

"No qualified military commander would think of sending out unarmed B-26s as air cover where there were jet fighter interceptors—and we had reasonable cause to believe the Cubans had jet fighters," he said.

Gen. Hutchison said one U. S. fighter could have covered the B-26s so they could have bombed tanks which, eventually, caused the defeat of invasion forces.

**Five Men Killed**

"When Gen. Doster got back, he saw me first before he talked to anybody," Hutchison said.

"He was heart-broken. Five of his men had been killed, and all of their efforts