

## UF CENTER A BENEFICIARY?

*McAlister Denies CIA Help*

CPYRGHT

Dr. Lyle N. McAlister, director of the University of Florida's Center for Latin American Studies, said today he knows nothing official about a report that the UF may have been the beneficiary of CIA funds.

State newspapers in Tampa and St. Petersburg have been trying for several days to pin down a report originating in the New York Times that the UF-based Pan American Foundation financed activities with funds from the Central Intelligence Agency.

CIA subsidies of student affairs were revealed last week by the federal governments international spy agency.

Reportedly, Dr. A. Curtis Wilgus, director of the UF's annual Conference on the Carib-

bean and a research professor of Latin American Studies, is director of the Pan American Foundation, which was based here until 1964.

Wilgus, who is slated to retire from the university in June, was reported out of town and not available for comment.

McAlister said he had no official information on the Pan American Foundation, and knows of no connection between it and the university.

"Dr. Wilgus was operating as a private individual in connection with the foundation and not as an official of the university," he said.

McAlister said the Pan American Foundation moved from here to Coral Gables in 1964.

He said he had heard the foundation gave money to support a student exchange program, but didn't personally know of any student from here who ever benefited from such a fund. The foundation also subsidized publications on Latin America, he said.

Wilgus was director of the School of Inter-American Studies at the university until 1963 when the Center for Latin American Studies headed by Dr. McAlister replaced his department.

Wilgus continued to direct the annual Conference on the Caribbean which, until 1963, was financed by private companies and organizations having interests in Latin America.

United Fruit Company and

Alcoa were among the sponsors. The conference brought prominent speakers to the campus to discuss social and economic problems of the area.

The U.S. State Department was generally represented by high officials.

According to McAlister, the University of Florida began picking up the tab — estimated at between \$3,500 and \$4,500 — for the conference in 1965. He said he believed the money came from the president's contingency fund.

The Pan American Foundation was incorporated in 1930 by leaders from Latin America and the United States who were interested in inter-American affairs. Its activities included

travel and research information.

It publishes the Journal of Inter-American Studies, a scholarly journal described by McAlister as being highly respected in academic circles.