

HERALD EXAMINER
(Los Angeles)
August 8, 1966

Senate and CIA

The Central Intelligence Agency is again where it ought not to be — in the spotlight. In this case interest in the agency is focused on how much and what kind of supervision it should be subjected to from Congress.

The controversy has a direct bearing on the national security. The CIA is a house of secrets. And the more people who are let into a secret, the less secret it becomes, despite the greatest integrity and good intentions of the initiated.

A "watchdog" committee already exists in the Senate to supervise CIA's activities and budget. Its chairman is the respectable Richard Russell of Georgia, a legislator of iron character, principle and determination to act in the nation's best interests.

His control of the committee

has been challenged by Sen. J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Sen. Fulbright sought to add members of his choosing to Sen. Russell's committee, reasoning that the CIA profoundly influences American foreign policy, and thus made its supervision very much his business.

But the Senate, in a closed and reportedly spirited session, upheld Sen. Russell's contention that the watchdog committee as it stood was adequate for its purpose. This is a victory for Sen. Russell, who heads the Armed Services Committee as well as the CIA body, and, we believe, for the CIA too.

Under Sen. Russell, supervision is in good enough hands, and the fewer hands the better, anyway.