

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Mr. YOUNG of North Dakota. Mr. President, if I were to select the one journalist who enjoys the best reputation and the highest respect of the people of this country, he would be David Lawrence. I have noted over the years that in all his writings he has sought above everything else to maintain the highest standard of accuracy. This, together with the good judgment he has always exercised, has made him one of our leading editors and columnists.

Mr. President, on May 3, 1966, the Washington Star carried a column by Mr. Lawrence relative to the CIA which is so typical of his good reporting. This is a column I believe will be of particular interest to all Members of Congress. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD, at this point.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE CIA AND AMERICAN INTERESTS
(By David Lawrence)

Newspaper articles were published recently purporting to reveal details of the system of espionage employed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. However, well intended, if the purpose was to start a crusade in Congress to restrict intelligence operations, this cannot but in the long run damage the interests of the American people.

The Central Intelligence Agency is not authorized to carry on any espionage within this country or to handle internal security problems, as all of these are responsibilities of the FBI. The CIA confines its operations to foreign countries, where, of course, it is subject to local laws as well as the countermeasures of agents of other governments which are hostile to the United States.

Espionage is in many ways dishonorable, but can be justified. To take a simple but far-reaching illustration, the secret acquisition of messages and the breaking of a Japanese code by agents of the United States in the years just prior to World War II enabled our Armed Forces to know in advance details of ship movements. This later played a vital role in naval engagements in the Pacific, par-

ticularly in the crucial Battle of Midway, in which the Japanese fleet was defeated.

The cold war is not unlike a hot war in its risks to the safety of the American people. Information about the existence of missile bases in Cuba may have been acquired too slowly, but what was learned did have the effect of enabling the United States to protect itself in time.

The recently published articles were the result of an honest and conscientious reporting effort, though errors did creep in, especially in the inference conveyed that certain committees of Congress are controlled by the CIA. The purpose of the articles, it was asserted, was to fix responsibility and also to tighten control of the CIA by Congress.

But for many years two committees in the House of Representatives and two in the Senate have been taken into the confidence of the CIA and have known about its methods of operation. The members could ask any questions they wished. If these committees, composed of loyal Americans, had felt that the CIA was doing something wrong, they could have long ago transmitted to the President their objections or could have demanded open inquiries and investigations.

One of the fundamental rules of intelligence work is to let as few people as possible know what is going on, so as to guard against leaks and the danger of infiltration or unwitting disclosure of secrets by persons who are not alert to the tricks used by agents of other countries. There would be risks, for instance, in opening up intelligence operations to the staffs of our Embassies abroad or to a lot of officials in the State Department. Some might not withhold from foreign diplomats at social gatherings bits of information considered irrelevant but which might have significant value to the other side. The Secretary of State is, of course, kept informed.

Mistakes naturally are made in espionage and other intelligence activities. So also are errors of judgment committed by generals in the heat of battle. Inefficiencies of the CIA can be discovered and remedied by responsible officials. The President of the United States is, after all, the Commander in Chief of the military forces and the boss of the intelligence system. He is the final judge as to whether a step that has been taken was or was not desirable. Corrective measures can always be applied.

Undoubtedly, the Communists will have a field day when they read some of the published articles about the internal workings of the CIA. It is a tragic mistake to furnish them with this information.

The press of the United States has in World Wars I and II maintained a voluntary censorship. The same system ought to prevail during a cold war, especially when it comes to deciding whether to disclose in print the secret methods used by the American Government in trying to deal with enemy intrigue inside foreign countries. For, whether carried on in Latin America, Europe, Africa, or Asia, the plotting is against the United States.