

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : The Director.
FROM : Chief, Legislative Liaison Division.
SUBJECT: Testimony on National Security Act.

DATE: 3 April 1947.

1. Your attention is drawn to the following quotation from the Washington Merry-Go-Round by Drew Pearson this morning:

"The White House is taking no chances that Government witnesses who testify at the Senate hearings on the armed forces merger bill will talk out of turn. Secretary of War Patterson and Secretary of Navy Forrestal were required to submit their prepared testimony to the White House before testifying on Capitol Hill and lesser fry officials are doing the same."

2. While this column was not directly cited, both Admiral Sherman and General Norstad were asked, during their testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee this morning, whether the above was the case.

3. Admiral Sherman stated that his prepared statement was delivered exactly as he wrote it, but that he understood that copies had been furnished in advance to the Secretary of the Navy, the White House and the Bureau of the Budget.

4. In answer to the same question, General Norstad stated that his statement was exactly as he had written it, and that no one outside the War Department had had a hand in it or had made any suggestions. He stated, however, that he understood that an information copy had been supplied the White House.

5. It is suggested that you might explore informally the question of whether your statement must be cleared by anyone prior to its delivery.

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To [Redacted] *for*
info purposes

[Redacted Signature Box]

WALTER L. PFORZHEIMER.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee: My appearance before your Committee this morning is in support of Section 202 of the proposed National Security Action of 1947. This section of the bill provides the United States, for the first time in our history, with a central intelligence service created by act of Congress. [The O.S.S. -- which was in some measure a move toward the centralization of intelligence -- was an emergency creation of the war and came to an end shortly after the fighting ceased.] The Central Intelligence Group, which I have the privilege of heading, has been in existence since January 1946, by authority of an Executive Directive of the President.

Since the day that the Central Intelligence Group was established, the Directors of Central Intelligence --my predecessor and I -- have looked forward to the time when we could come before the Congress, and request that we be given permanent status thru legislative enactment. That day has arrived. I sincerely urge adoption of this section of the bill. The United States must have an intelligence service second to none. It must never again be stunned by surprise attack. To assure against such disaster, we must have full knowledge of the intentions and capabilities of the other nations and explosive areas of the world.

I know that you gentlemen understand that the nature of the intelligence