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WASHINGTON TALK

Briefing

Hail Nathan Hale

Intelligence with a capital I is always analyzed one more time when a good spy story is unraveling in the capital. Investigators round up their usual sources for tips and try to set up secret meetings with retired spies. Anyone in the intelligence business is worth a call, if not a drink in the English Pub at the Hay-Adams Hotel. But so far the hunters have missed at least one professional intelligence operation. It is the Nathan Hale Institute, a serious outfit that works out of a single room near the Capitol with one full-time employee, Mary Calhoun, working as Control. Just recently, she said, the institute produced a study of counterintelligence by an expert named Francis McNamara. Not much more can be expected from an organization with a budget under \$100,000 a year, Miss Calhoun said. Still, the means were found to celebrate the 230th anniversary of the birth of Hale, this nation's first spy, at a reception in the Senate Caucus Room on Thursday. Someone who attended the reception said, not for attribution, that the conversations were of such low volume that it was difficult enough eavesdropping, never mind bugging.

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