

June 16, 1954

THE ARMY-McCARTHY HEARINGS AT 2:30 PM OVER WNYC, N. Y. C.

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SYMINGTON: Do you think that President Eisenhower could put any classification on a secret document which would prevent you from being a person authorized to receive and examine it?

McCARTHY: I guess the answer is yes and no.

SYMINGTON: . . . Do you think the FBI could have any document which you as Chairman of this Committee should not be entitled to receive?

McCARTHY: Oh certainly.

SYMINGTON: Is that the only agency in the government, then, that has documents you are not entitled to receive?

McCARTHY: No, I think Mr. Symington that neither my committee nor any other investigating committee should receive any documents which (1) will disclose the names of informants; (2) demonstrate investigative techniques; (3) endanger our national security.

SYMINGTON: Did you ever hear of Admiral Canaris?

McCARTHY: I have heard of Admiral Canaris.

SYMINGTON: Do you remember who he is?

McCARTHY: I couldn't give his record.

CRC, 3/25/2003

SYMINGTON: For the record, inasmuch as the CIA is another lifeline to our security I'd like to say that Admiral Canaris was a man who turned against Hitler and that the chief reason that we succeeded so rapidly in conquering Italy was, from what I've gathered and I'll check it for the record and correct myself if I'm wrong, due to the efforts of Mr. Allen Dulles, the present head of the CIA, had a tremendous amount to do with it, -- It saved the lives of the many, many American boys, the magnificent job that the CIA did in establishing contact with Mr. Dulles heading the show, as I understand it, with some traitors in Germany.

McCARTHY: Mr. Symington, there was no CIA at that time.

SYMINGTON: It was the same thing as the CIA. The initials may be wrong but that I was getting at more than the agency --

McCARTHY: Senator you are wrong.

SYMINGTON: -- was the man who was heading the agency. If Mr. Carr feels that there wasn't any special agency of that character -- I know that he spoke to you about it -- I have just as much pride in the CIA, Mr. Carr, as you have in the FBI, because it's part of America.

McCARTHY: I'm just telling you that the CIA was not formed --

SYMINGTON: It was the OSS - Office of Strategic Services.

McCARTHY: OK. If you want to talk about the OSS, good, but

let's make it clear that the CIA was not formed until long after the time you mentioned.

SYMINGTON: The CIA is the successor to the OSS, I think we're now dealing in semantics, and I'd like to proceed. The next question: Do you think there can be any information contained in documents, any at all, in the Executive Branch which the Chairman of this Committee should not be entitled to receive if he, the chairman, thinks it bears on an investigation he is conducting?

McCARTHY: You asked three or four questions Senator.

SYMINGTON: I'll repeat. Will the reporter repeat the question?

McCARTHY: I have it all in mind. First, you say that the CIA has been responsible for certain activities, and we agree that it was not the CIA. You say it is the OSS - you say the CIA was the successor of the OSS. I believe that anyone in Washington, including Senator Symington, I believe will agree that the OSS was the most heavily infiltrated by Communists of any organization that we've ever had in this country. There is no doubt about it. Now how many of those were blanketed into the CIA, I don't know. But in view of the fact that you brought up the question of OSS, I want to make it clear that I am no admirer of the Communists in OSS. Now Bill Donovan, who headed that, I think was

an outstanding individual. At the time the OSS was formed, we were using them behind the lines to work with Russia, so it was only logical that there would be a lot of Communists in the OSS. I think it is extremely unfortunate, however, that we have blanketed many of those Communists into the CIA. That the Senator knows, the House Committee headed by, I believe, it was Mr. O'Keefe, -- I'm not sure -- pointed out that ~~that~~ Communists from Army Intelligence were quietly shifted over to CIA. I want to say, Senator, that I think the worst situation that we now have is not in the military, it is in the CIA --

SYMINGTON: Senator McCarthy I don't want to interrupt you but I didn't ask you any questions on that. If the CIA --

McCARTHY: When you brought up OSS, I had to comment on it.

SYMINGTON: It is a problem for the Republican Administration, not for me.

McCARTHY: It is a problem for both of us.

SYMINGTON: It's a problem for the country, too, but it's under a Republican administration. All I was trying to say is that Mr. Allen Dulles who runs the CIA today, and all I know about it is from a great flyer with a record in both wars who now works for him, -- is responsible for one of the most magnificent intelligence jobs that was done in World War II. That was told to me at one time by Bill Donovan, who incidentally

was also my personal lawyer. I'm sorry for his sake. Now can we get on with the question.

McCarthy: No I'd like to comment.

SYMINGTON: Well I'd rather ask the question and you can comment later.

McCARTHY: When you make a comment --

SYMINGTON: I know but I'll tell you what I think we'd better do. Now because it's a Republican problem but because it's an American problem, I brought up what I thought was right. I'll have a statement for the hearing tomorrow with respect to the CIA and the OSS.

McCARTHY: I assumed you would.

SYMINGTON: It was my understanding that the OSS was an organization that handled intelligence abroad outside of the United States in World War II. If that's wrong I stand corrected. The agency now that handles intelligence outside the US is the CIA. I knew very well the first head of the CIA. General Vandenberg was the second head of it. I think I know a little about him, but I don't think it is on this issue and I'd like to proceed with the question. ----

MUNDT: Senator Symington.

SYMINGTON: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, my primary interest in the CIA aspect was because it is our agency for

world wide intelligence; To be frank I knew little of the OSS. I found out the following facts.

The OSS was run by so-called Wild Bill Donovan who as I said is my friend and formerly was my lawyer. I know we'll all agree that he is a great American; actually he holds the highest decoration that this country can give for valor - Congressional Medal of Honor. At this time he is in town - at this moment I understand he is convening with the Joint Chiefs of Staff with respect to the grave problems we now face in Southeast Asia. I have had confirmed my statement with respect to Mr. Allen Dulles. From early 1943 from Switzerland he was in contact with the anti-Nazi German underground which included Admiral Canaris and which produced the attempted revolution against Hitler on July 20, 1944, which almost resulted in his death. Also he was one of the leaders in the successful efforts to get the Italians to surrender long before the Nazis did.

I wanted to make the record clear on this Mr. Chairman. I know little or nothing of the OSS. It was disbanded before I came into the government or just afterwards way back in 1945, and then as I understand it there were a series of trusteeships which were set up and carried over until the present agency the CIA was established. I know little or nothing of the OSS but I know quite a bit about the CIA primarily because the

late great General Hoyt Vandenberg was the head of the CIA just prior to the time he came into the Air Force as First Vice Chief of Staff and then Chief of Staff.

I thank the Chairman for letting me place these remarks in the record.

MUNDT: Yes indeed. Now we've concluded that ten minute round and so Mr. Cohn if you have any questions you're the next man to ask them.

COHN: Yes sir.

MUNDT: You have ten minutes.

COHN: Mr. Chairman (sic), you've talked about CIA and Communist infiltration into the CIA. I'll ask you this first of all. Has it always been your position that there are in CIA and other infiltrated agencies a vast number of great loyal Americans who have done an outstanding job?

McCARTHY: I would say that CIA has a very sizeable number, in fact the vast majority who are good loyal and outstanding Americans, for example Admiral Hillenkoetter who is head of CIA (sic), I think is a good American. I agree with Wild Bill Donovan -- a great soldier, a great person. I may say Mr. Cohn that I think that Senator Symington and I certainly think he's very sincere about this when he says that all

I know about the CIA is what I learned from a great flyer, he is inclined to do what so many people do they get someone to say this is a great organization, wonderful group of men. From that point onward I think, Senator, you feel that you've got to defend everyone in the organization. I would say that it is no favor to the CIA not to expose those who may be traitors even though the number may be a very, very small percentage. Does that answer your question?

COHN: Yes sir. The one last question I suppose would be this. Senator Symington is likewise --

McCARTHY: May I say incidentally Mr. Cohn that Owen Lattimore for example was one of the top men in OSS as I recall.

COHN: Well the point I was going to make is this. There are, I would assume you would agree, there were in OSS when it was in existence a great number of very able and very loyal patriotic Americans.

McCARTHY: A great number of very loyal Americans. And may I say Mr. Cohn that when OSS was organized it was organized during the war years and they utilized the services of Communists and I don't question that. The difficulty was that after the war was over those Communists who were in OSS during the war were blanketed into other agencies.

COHN: That was going to be my last question on this point. Even though there were a great number of loyal Americans the public record now shows that OSS was the victim of a highly successful plot of Communist

spies, espionage, infiltration, and there have been persons high in rank in OSS who have since those days evoked the Fifth Amendment as to whether they were engaged in espionage before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee presided over by two great Americans, Senator McCarran and then later Senator Jenner. Is that right sir?

McCARTHY: Right.

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SYMINGTON: I have no doubt that we have Communists in agencies in the government. I also have no doubt that the Soviet Kremlin leaders would hope that we have this union with respect to all government agencies under this Republican Administration. As far as the OSS is concerned somebody handed me and whispered to me as a correction with respect to the CIA you were technically correct. I know literally nothing about it except I do know that one of the greatest and one of the most courageous human beings that I have ever known was Bill Donovan. Congressional Medal of Honor winner who ran the OSS during the war.