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**Journal**

**Office of Legislative Counsel**

**Thursday - 4 April 1957**

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1. Obtained a copy of the transcript of the Charles Edmundson hearing of 27 March before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. Reviewed it and made copies.

**NSP:fm**

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Mr. Edmondson. Well, I think when I came back here and had an hour and a half's talk with Mr. Allen Dulles - -

Mr. Sourwine. Did he tell you these men were - -

Mr. Edmondson. No, but he didn't deny that they were.

Mr. Sourwine. Did you charge to him that they were?

Mr. Edmondson. Yes.

Mr. Sourwine. Then you got your knowledge from him. Is that what you are telling us? By his failure to deny the charge?

Mr. Edmondson. I am saying, in a sense, he confirmed it up to a point where he didn't deny it. He did deny it about certain other people I named, and certain other people that I think I know -- certain other people that I think I know are intelligence agents.

He said, well, they are not members of CIA and have never been, and I take his word for that. He didn't say that about these two.

Mr. Sourwine. He did not say that about these two?

Mr. Edmondson. No.

Mr. Sourwine. And from that you felt, and perhaps quite properly, that you were entitled to think they were, in fact. That is where you got your knowledge; is that right?

Mr. Edmondson. In my statement I said that these two men were members of the CIA or other intelligence agencies.

Mr. Sourwine. Yes.

The questioners tried very hard to tie Edmondson down to the fact that he received official information on Downey and Fortens while serving as an official of the United States Government. He denied this, however, pointing out that the discussion

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with Allen Dulles took place after his resignation had been effective, or at least after it had been submitted. He covered himself on this matter with great care. At one point he said he knew of more spies, but immediately added, I don't feel that I could mention anything that I know about the CIA which I learned as a member of the Foreign Service.

Incidentally, Edmundson qualified his earlier statement that Allen Dulles was a good friend. He did affirm, however, that he had known him for 10 years, and added that he had seen him practically every time I have come to town. I used to work with him. I kept in correspondence with him and he was one of those who persuaded me, had something to do with my supporting Dewey.

#### Why Did He Make The Statement?

Senator Bricker and Staff repeatedly asked Edmundson why he felt justified in making a public statement which could have no other result than to complicate the problem of the release of American prisoners in China. Edmundson indicated that he had thought about the problem, but had concluded that he was perfectly justified for a combination of reasons which he didn't make altogether clear to the Committee.

He felt that there was a legal justification, in that these facts were a matter of common knowledge. He was pretty sure that he wasn't the first government official to make a statement on this subject, and backed this up by referring to some American colonel, an ex-POW in China, who said, I told those people a lot of things they shouldn't know. He admitted that he had no idea just what things the colonel had told the Chinese, but assumed it must have had something to do with intelligence operations.

Edmundson's main justification rested on what he considered to be moral and ethical grounds. He believes that the President and the Secretary of State are interfering with constitutional liberties in forbidding members of the United States press from going to China. The Secretary of State is using this as a bargaining point for the release of prisoners. Any country has a right to hold spies, and the release of spies which a country had a

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right under international law to seize can't be legitimately made a pretext for curtailing freedom of the press. CIA is sending thousands of agents out all over the world to put into effect any scheme or any project that their fancy may dictate. This type of business runs the risk of endangering our foreign relations and violates a fundamental liberty in that no report of such activities is given to the Congress or to the public. It was in the interest of helping to avert this grave threat to American liberty and to the safety of the American nation that he stated his knowledge that Cowley and Parsons were CIA spies.

He found support for his position in referring to a story in the February issue of the Catholic magazine "Commonweal Weekly", which said that Allen Dulles and some general (the one who succeeded MacArthur in Korea) had been guilty of conspiracy of silence to prevent the American people from knowing things that they should know about the way their government was being run. He tied this in somehow with his main message concerning freedom of the press. The American press has a right to send its representatives anywhere on this planet, or on any other planet, to gather its facts. He climaxed this presentation by quoting Thomas Jefferson as follows:

If I had to choose between having a government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I would without a moment's hesitation choose newspapers.

#### Other Matters Covered

Edmondson made a number of observations about the weaknesses in the Mutual Security Program for Korea. He also indicated that he knew a number of Communists in America. He was pretty sure that Julius Glyman of the St. Louis Post Dispatch was a card-carrying Communist. Another Communist was Jacob Dovel, who also used to work for the Post Dispatch, now with the Chicago Sun Times. He had been told that Cameron McKenzie of Time magazine was a Communist, and he was sure that his, McKenzie's wife, also with Life publications and who wrote under the name of Anna de Cormis, was at least a fellow traveler. He stated that the famous C. K. Beveridge of the St. Louis Post Dispatch was extremely pro-Communist.

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2. The Committee does not presently intend to call Edmondson back. They also told me they do not plan to release the testimony.

3. I was given access to the transcript by Judge Morris on an informal basis. In other words, we have not officially seen it.

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