

State Dept  
[Redacted]

12 August 1958

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT: Discussion with Chet Wiggin, Administrative Assistant to Senator Bridges**

1. Mr. Macomber, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Affairs, telephoned to say that Chet Wiggin in the office of Senator Bridges had a query from a constituent dealing with a letter to the editor of a New Hampshire newspaper from [Redacted]. Macomber felt we might assist Wiggin in handling a reply to the constituent.

2. Subsequently I met with Chet Wiggin and the letter from the constituent was from William Loeb, the publisher of the largest newspaper in New Hampshire, who is a personal friend of Senator Bridges. Loeb's letter referred to [Redacted] letter and asked Senator Bridges to look into the matter and if the charges were true possibly the head of CIA and a number of other staff people should be removed from their positions. Wiggin was furnished the [Redacted] series on [Redacted]. He was advised that we did not take any public position on the [Redacted] situation. Mr. Wiggin was fully understanding of the problem. Apparently he had already received word from the FBI that they did not think much of [Redacted]. Wiggin thanked us very much for our assistance and said he would suggest to the Senator that the letter not be answered but rather the Senator should call Loeb indicating in somewhat vague terms that [Redacted] was not regarded very highly.

3. Mr. Wiggin then volunteered the fact that there had been a considerable amount of criticism of the Agency reaching the Senator's office which basically did not disturb him as a supporter of the Agency. Wiggin went on to mention the fact that there had been a serious move in the Appropriations Committee to cut our appropriations based on criticism of the number of personnel at headquarters. Wiggin specifically mentioned the names of [Redacted].

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4. It was mentioned to Wiggin that we had missed Senator Bridges at the meeting of the CIA Subcommittee of Senate Armed Services on 8 August since we desired to keep all members of our Subcommittee fully informed. Mr. Wiggin raised the general question of briefing the CIA Subcommittees so that they could be fully informed and assist the Agency in dealing with criticism from other members of Congress. I explained that we desired to brief our Subcommittees fully and would like to give them a more complete presentation of the Agency itself. Wiggin said he believed Senator Bridges would welcome this type of presentation.

5. As a matter of information, Wiggin stated that Senator Bridges in the past has been irritated at some of our briefings by the use of specific numbers. He cited as a hypothetical case the fact that the Agency had stated that Russia had 430 (a figure picked at random) submarines. Apparently Senator Bridges' comment was to the effect that such preciseness of figures was "just plain horse manure." After some discussion, Wiggin agreed probably this reaction resulted only from the method of expression in the presentation.

~~SECRET~~

JOHN S. WARNER  
Legislative Counsel

cc: DCI  
DDCI  
DD/S  
Comptroller

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