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27 December 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Chairman Lucien Nedzi, Intelligence Subcommittee, House Armed Services Committee

1. Today I called Chairman Nedzi and brought him up-to-date on the information developed by the IG Staff on the material which the DO Division picked up from Senator Barry Goldwater's office in 1964 and passed to the White House. I told him that the facts pretty closely followed the second story on this subject which appeared in the Washington Post on 21 December. I said that the idea of providing this information to the White House had apparently originated with Tracey Barnes since he had not been instructed to do this by either Mr. McCone or Mr. Helms nor as far as we could determine by anyone else in higher authority. I said this was of course quite different from the original story which appeared in the Post on 20 December indicating that Hunt's office had conducted a surveillance of Senator Goldwater during this time period.

2. I said the material had been passed to [redacted] our man on [redacted] but I made no mention of the role which [redacted] played in the White House as described in [redacted] memo of 21 December. I pointed out that the material consisted of open press releases and travel data, but the arrangement instituted by Mr. Barnes made it possible to obtain advance copies of this material giving the White House a lead-time of approximately three hours over the normal release time.

3. Chairman Nedzi agreed that this was rather innocuous as compared to the original story that appeared in the Post, but he said it was a matter of concern to him nevertheless. I said we were not trying to justify or minimize the seriousness of this, but I pointed out that the situation in which the Agency operated in 1964 was quite different from what it is today. At that time there was not the degree of sensitivity about "domestic activities" which exists

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today. We were primarily concerned about keeping out of internal security, police, and law enforcement functions. I conceded, however, that inasmuch as this material involved Presidential candidates, Barnes did not show very good judgment and I assured him that Mr. Colby has indicated this kind of thing will not happen in the future.

4. Chairman Nedzi asked me how we knew that Barnes had undertaken this activity on his own initiative and how we could be sure that this would not happen again. With regard to his first question I said that the statements made by Messrs. McCone and Helms and the lack of any record of instructions to Barnes on this coupled with our interview of [redacted] who worked for Howard Hunt at the time, led us to this conclusion. As far as the present situation is concerned, I said while we could not make absolute guarantees we felt that Agency employees are now particularly sensitive in view of recent developments pertaining to Watergate and other matters and that Agency instructions and regulations on this subject had become quite specific.

5. Mr. Nedzi asked if Barnes had been interviewed and I told him it was my impression that Barnes was now dead. I later confirmed that Barnes died on 18 February 1972.

6. Chairman Nedzi said he did not plan to contact the press on this and doubted they would be in touch with him. If they do question him further, however, he will recount the facts as I have given them to him.

[redacted]

GEORGE L. CARY, JR.
Deputy Legislative Counsel

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