

Retirement Bill Of CIA Designed To Reduce Staff

WASHINGTON (CQ) — The Central Intelligence Agency wants to ease out many of its long-term and more senior agents abroad.

This appears to be the nub of the story behind a bill, passed by the House and now before the Senate Armed Services Committee, that would authorize a special retirement program for CIA.

Nowhere in the published record is it stated that this is CIA's intent, or that any large number of Agency operatives will be involved. But there are ample clues to support the assumption.

What appears to have happened is that John A. McCone, Director of CIA for the past two years, found his Agency's operational staff overloaded with

10-to-15 year men for whom promotion was unlikely and whose "cost-effectiveness" did not justify their salaries of \$12,000 and up.

Last year McCone handed pink slips to 125 such men. Of these, 19 were 60 years old or over, 38 between 50 and 59, 48 between 40 and 49, and 20 under 40. Few had enough Federal service to draw immediate annuities; most received about a year's pay to help them get re-established elsewhere.

But there appear to be many more such men that CIA is prepared to release, on a more equitable scale of early retirement benefits. The legislation is "imperative," said Rep. L. Mendel Rivers D-S.C., because there

were "so many employees, with many years, who are affected."

CIA's Request

CIA officials last July told a House Armed Services subcommittee headed by Rivers that they needed a retirement program similar to that of the Foreign Service "for those of their employees 'who should be retired at an earlier age.' The group involved, although not described as such, was clearly the operational arm of the Agency directly engaged in the gathering of intelligence abroad.

These men, it was said, are subject to great stress and strain in their work, to the hazards of disease, and to 'motivational exhaustion.' Some have skills so highly specialized that, as Agency requirements shift, they become 'occupationally surplus.'

Since CIA can't afford to keep them on in the same work and can't find other work for them the agency must resort to "encouraged and induced attrition."

Out of consideration for such men, the Agency asked for a two-part system of retirement benefits like that of the Foreign Service. It would permit an employee with 20 years of government service to retire at age 50 with an immediate annuity amounting to 40 per cent of salary. And it would permit the Director (who has complete discretion to fire any CIA employee) to give those separated involuntarily a similar immediate annuity, or separation pay up to a year's salary, depending upon their rank.

The Rivers subcommittee made several changes in the bill before approving it, but voiced no disagreement with the purpose or basic form of CIA's request. And on Oct. 30 the House, by voice vote, passed the "Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act of 1963 for Certain Employees."

Numbers Involved

The early retirement system is intended to cover only about 30 per cent of CIA's employees.

the Agency's spokesmen told Congress. Not all CIA personnel who work abroad would be eligible. On the other hand, some who do not work abroad would be covered.

To express this intent in the legislation, the House adopted an amendment restricting coverage to those "whose duties are determined by the Director to be (1) in support of Agency activities abroad hazardous to life or health or (2) so specialized because of security requirements as to be clearly distinguishable from normal government employment."

What this might mean in absolute numbers is sheer guesswork. CIA has been rumored to have something like 10,000 employees in the United States and as many again abroad. If so, several thousand would be eligible for the proposed retirement system.

The Agency is continuously recruiting and training new intelligence operatives, and there is no evidence that the plan to force a large number of older agents into an early departure signifies a net reduction in force. But it is not inconceivable that CIA Director McCone

Teen-Agers Getting Christmas Tattoos

ROMFORD, England (UPI)—Tattoo artist Victor Shipton, 41, said today teen-agers are lining up outside his shop to get special Christmas tattoos.

"There is a rush for religious subjects just now," Shipton said. "The crucifixion is the most popular."

One of his customers, Brian

— "valued for his unselfish talents as an organizer," according to one observer — has concluded that he can do his job with fewer people.

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Portland Chamber Selects Wessinger

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