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1 trouble come see you?

2 Mr. Houston. Oh, no, there's a number of times. For
3 instance, I think it was back in the '50's, there's a lot of
4 them, but a couple might illustrate -- in those days we were
5 doing a good deal of political action abroad in the sense of
6 giving guidance to factions in foreign countries that U.S.
7 policy favored in organizing elections. I don't mean in
8 rigging them, but how to get down to the grass roots, the old-
9 fashioned political advice on how to run a political campaign.

10 We didn't have many trained officers on this. We had
11 one or two who were excellent and they wanted more, and they
12 came to me with the proposition that -- this was an election year,
13 which one I have forgotten -- that we put officers in both the
14 Republican and Democratic campaign parties to get the practical
15 experience, and I advised -- actually, I went over and talked
16 with Malcolm Wilkie, who was then the legal counsel in the
17 Department of Justice, and this was most ill-advisable, and I
18 went back and they dropped the project.

19 More recently, our communication fellows down in Virginia
20 found they could easily monitor long distance telephone
21 conversations from Latin American to Canada, and in some cases
22 to New York, and these frequently carried conversations
23 involving narcotics in great detail. They had no telephone
24 discipline at all, security discipline on the telephone. And
25 they would even give the name of the person who's going to

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1 receive the narcotics and where.

2 However, this immediately got us into an internal security
3 and a police function. I told them they had to drop it, and
4 they did. And it's too bad, because nobody else has found a way
5 of doing it, and this information is floating over our heads
6 right now and we cannot use it.

7 Mr. Schwarz. Have there been any instances where you or
8 your office advised the Agency that it should not do something
9 when nevertheless the Agency went ahead and did it?

10 Mr. Houston. I should think I would remember an occasion
11 like that, but I don't.

12 Senator Mondale. Thank you.

13 (Senator Mondale left the hearing room.)

14 Mr. Schwarz. Mr. Houston, with the Senator absent, you
15 don't have to go ahead.

16 Mr. Houston. Fine, fine.

17 Mr. Schwarz. I'm going to go on to another subject.
18 Does anyone else have anything else about the Robert Kennedy
19 meeting?

20 Mr. Kirbow. I have only one other question, and perhaps
21 more about the leadership of the Agency.

22 Mr. Houston, your reputation over the some twenty-six
23 twenty-eight years you were General Counsel was one of intense
24 loyalty to the Director and the Deputy Director of the Agency.

25 Mr. Houston. That is correct.

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