

Disputes CIA's Version

Rep. Stokes Confirms JFK Files Report

Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), former chairman of the House Assassinations Committee, confirmed last night that a Central Intelligence Agency officer gained unauthorized access last summer to a safe containing sensitive committee files.

In a floor speech that disputed the CIA's version on several important points, Stokes said a notebook containing autopsy photos of President Kennedy had been taken out of the safe, that a plastic cover had been ripped out of the notebook and one of the photos removed from the plastic cover.

Fingerprints on the plastic on the inside of the safe door and other materials in the safe were traced to a CIA liaison officer who had no business being in the room alone, Stokes said.

In response to reports in The Washington Post, the CIA has taken the position that the officer in question, who was dismissed, had every right to

be in the room and that he did not enter the safe to get the notebook. The agency has implied that the notebook was inadvertently left outside the safe and that, in any case, the incident was simply a matter of "curiosity" on the officer's part.

Stokes, however, said that the committee staff members who conducted their own investigation of the episode "are not satisfied that the motive has been established."

"They believe 'mere curiosity' is not consistent with the fingerprint evidence," he said.

Stokes, however, noted that apparently nothing was missing from the safe and voiced doubts that further inquiry would resolve the matter.

"In the absence of a full and truthful confession by the agency employee or the others, if any, who were in league with him—or substantial new evidence, all recognize that the matter of motive cannot be ultimately resolved," Stokes said in his prepared

speech. He said he considers the matter "closed" and feels that "the [House] committee and the agency did all they reasonably could be expected to do" last summer.

Today's Activities In Senate, House

Senate

Not in session.
Committees:
Commerce, Science & Transportation — 11 a.m.
Open. Nomination of Sam Nemirow of Virginia as asst. Commerce Secy. 235 Russell Office Bldg.

House

Meets at 10 a.m.
Committees:
Interstate & Foreign Commerce—10 a.m. Open.
Int. hrng.: Energy, Environ., & Natural Res. (Government Operations). Oversight & Invest., and Energy & Power Subcomtes. Cont. hrngs. on diesel & home heating oil price & supply. 2154 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Interstate & Foreign Commerce — 9:30 a.m. Open. Energy & Power Subcomte. Hrng. on problems of gathering energy information by the Energy Information Admin. 2123 RHOB.
Judiciary — 9:30 a.m. Open. Criminal Justice Subcomte. Con. on Criminal Code revision. 2237 RHOB.
Standards of Official Conduct—9:30 a.m. Open. Hrng. in the matter of Rep. Diggs. B-318 RHOB.