

# PIKE TO REQUEST CONTEMPT ACTION IN C.I.A. INQUIRY

## Challenges Administration's Right to Keep Classified Material From Congress

By DAVID BINDER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25 —

Representative Otis G. Pike said today that in his opinion the executive branch was in "contempt of Congress," and that he would ask the House of Representatives to take action next week.

In making his assertion, the Suffolk County Democrat, who is chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, challenged the Ford Administration's right to withhold classified information from Congress. He said that if the House backed him, he would name an official he wanted found in contempt—possibly President Ford, but more likely somebody like William E. Colby, the Director of Central Intelligence.

### Optimistic on Citation

Mr. Pike indicated this afternoon that he felt the committee would support his request for a contempt resolution and that the House would muster sufficient votes to pass it because of widespread sentiment that the Administration had affronted Congress.

A White House spokesman also indicated a major confrontation was in the making, saying that an attempt by Republican members of the Pike committee to obtain White House approval of a compromise had "fallen by the wayside."

The dispute between the two branches of Government began Sept. 11, when the House committee voted to declassify some

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United States intelligence data on the 1973 Middle East War. A day later, President Ford issued an Executive order barring disclosure to the committee of further secret information until an agreement on classification authority had been reached.

Robert McCloy, the ranking Republican member of the committee, in attempting to reach a compromise with President Ford on the classification-declassification issue, asked Mr. Ford yesterday to accept the committee's unanimous demand that it be accorded the right to notify the executive branch that it wished to declassify a secret and then invite comment in closed session, if necessary, from Administration officials.

According to the Illinois Representative, Mr. Ford promised to reply to the demand "in a day or so."

With this in mind, Mr. McCloy asked Mr. Pike not to go ahead with his plan to place the contempt question before the full house this afternoon but to wait until Monday. Although he expressed reserva-

tions, Mr. Pike agreed to the or tell us we have gone too far. It is my feeling that the Sergeant at Arms would be empowered to arrest the official questions because "we must do a damned thing" if analysis and policy formation are empowered to discuss and make

postponement. This development followed a hearing this morning at which there were sharp exchanges between committee members and carefully Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Dep. Sec. of State.

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