

House Vote Keeps Security Unit Intact

By Mary Russell

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The House voted yesterday by a large margin to keep its Internal Security Committee alive despite attempts by backers of three different reform proposals to abolish it.

By a vote of 246 to 164 the House refused to kill off the committee, which first brought Rep. Richard Nixon (R-Calif.) to national prominence during its investigation in the late '40s of the Alger Hiss Case.

Voting to keep the committee intact were 109 Democrats and 137 Republicans, while 126 Democrats and 38 Republicans voted to abolish it.

Rep. Richard Ichord (D-Mo.), the present chairman of the committee charged with looking into subversive activities, said he hoped members would "not be misled by persistent misrepresentations of perennial opponents of the work of this committee."

The committee, Ichord said, "does not keep dossiers on members of Congress, doesn't prosecute any individuals, and does not persecute anyone for their ideology and philosophy."

The committee's only concern is with "the overthrow of the government by force, violence or by unlawful means" and it is primarily an investigative committee, not legislative, he said.

"The best way to combat subversive activities is by disclosure," Ichord said. "The people have a right to know."

Rep. Robert F. Drinan (D-Mass.), who has admitted that he became a member of the committee simply to seek its demise, said it "should go the way of all flesh in this era of detente."

Drinan charged that the House "has been brought into

disrepute by the antics of this committee," and said ending its life would "improve the image of Congress."

In his four years on the committee, Drinan charged, it has spent \$1 million a year, "keeping up its files on 752,000 Americans."

All three committee reorganization plans currently under debate by the House recommended that the Internal Security Committee be abolished. Two of the proposals by

a select committee headed by Rep. Richard Bolling (D-Mo.) and by Rep. David Martin (R-Neb.), would have transferred its jurisdiction to Government Operations. The third proposal, by a Democratic Caucus committee headed by Rep. Julia Butler Hanson (D-Wash.), would transfer it to the Judiciary Committee.

The Internal Security Committee was established in 1938 as the House Committee on Un-American Activities. While Richard Nixon was a member, from 1947 to 1951, it conducted its famous investigation into charges that State Department employee Alger Hiss was passing information to the Communists. Nixon played a large role in gathering the testimony of Whittaker Chambers, the chief witness against Hiss, and this catapulted Nixon into national prominence.



By Ellsworth Davis—The Washington Post

WIRETAP TESTIMONY—Attorney General William B. Saxbe, left, and FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley yesterday speak against legislation to require court warrants to gather foreign intelligence information. Saxbe told a Senate Judiciary subcommittee that curbs could endanger national security.