

House panel to probe Schorr leak

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted Thursday to order its Ethics Committee to investigate the leak of its secret Intelligence committee report and to determine whether to take action against CBS Correspondent Daniel Schorr for his role in its publication.

The chamber approved 269-115 a resolution ordering the probe and saying it appears the "alleged actions of the said Daniel Schorr may be in contempt of or a breach of the privileges of this house." The resolution suggests no specific action against the correspondent.

But Rep. Samuel S. Stratton, D-N.Y. who introduced the resolution, suggested Schorr's press card could be voided or that he could be cited for contempt of Congress. The resolution leaves any recommendation up to members of the Ethics Committee.

Democratic Leader Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. opposed the investigation, saying the media should be allowed to handle their own affairs. Other members expressed opposition as well, including Rep. Bob Eckhardt, D-Tex., who declared: "I'm willing to join in an inquiry, but I'm not willing to join in an inquisition."

Schorr has acknowledged he is responsible for publication of the Intelligence committee report in two parts over the last two weeks by a New York weekly newspaper, the Village Voice. The report is still classified as secret.

Much of what was in the report already had been reported by Schorr and others.

"I decided," Schorr said in a public statement, that with much of the contents already known I could not be the one responsible for suppressing the report."

The House resolution cites that statement by Schorr in ordering the investigation of circumstances surrounding its publication.

Stratton said the resolution focuses on Schorr because "we know he was involved" — but the congressman added that it was possible the investigation also would involve who supplied Schorr with the report.

It might take a long time to determine who that was, Stratton said, adding that the House should go ahead with its investigation of whether Schorr is in fact in contempt of Congress and whether he should be punished.

"The resources of the FBI have been extended to the House (to help find out who leaked the report to Schorr)," Stratton said, "but it took them a long time to find Patty Hearst."

President Ford said last week he would make "all services and resources of the executive branch" available to the House to track the leak, but Speaker Carl Albert replied he didn't plan to accept the offer.

Schorr has refused to say who gave him the report.