

Frederick Post

A loaf of bread, a jug of wine,
and thou hast shot the weekly
food budget.

H-Noon-er,
Glendale, Calif.

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Ford proposal restricts CIA spy actions on U.S. citizens

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford on Wednesday ordered strict limits to spying on American citizens but at the same time proposed new powers for a centralized intelligence community, including court-ordered mail opening and a secrecy law.

Except for a ban on political assassinations, Ford placed no limits on covert operations abroad. "There are no restraints on the conduct of covert operations ... other than congressional oversight," White House aide John O. Marsh told reporters.

Ford proposed secrecy legislation that would make it a crime to reveal intelligence sources and methods and ordered government employes and contractors with access to intelligence secrets to sign an agreement not to disclose those secrets. The attorney general could bring a civil suit against any person breaking the agreement, while anyone violating the proposed law would be liable to a maximum penalty of a \$5,000 fine and five years in jail.

Reacting to disclosure of abuses by U.S. intelligence agencies, Ford issued a 36-page executive order Wednesday, expanding on his statement the night before at a news conference.

With certain "limited exceptions," Ford's order, effective March 1, places the following limits on intelligence activities:

—No electronic eavesdropping by the CIA inside the United States.

—No interception by the National Security Agency of communications to or from the United States.

—No collection of information on the

domestic activities of American citizens, corporations and organizations.

—No physical surveillance of break-ins directed against U.S. citizens.

—No infiltration of domestic groups for the purpose of influencing or reporting on them.

The "limited exceptions" to these guidelines would permit the collection of domestic intelligence, including the use of physical surveillance, for purposes of counter-espionage and to conduct security checks on government employes and contractors with access to intelligence secrets. None of the limits

apply to the FBI, which will be governed by a separate set of guidelines to be issued by Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi within 90 days.

In a separate message to Congress, Ford said he would seek legislation that would require the government to obtain a judicial warrant before installing a national security wiretap.

Ford indicated he also would seek to expand government powers to open mail, which currently is permitted only in criminal investigations. "We need

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authority to open mail... in order to obtain vitally needed foreign intelligence information," Ford said.

Under the procedure proposed by Ford, the government could obtain a court order to open mail if it could show "there is probable cause to believe that the sender or recipient is an agent of a foreign power who is engaged in spying, sabotage or terrorism."

Ford's executive order also outlined in detail the reorganization plan which he said Tuesday night would hold the President accountable for intelligence operations.

In his message to Congress, Ford urged the creation of a single joint oversight committee in order to "facilitate the efforts of the administration to keep the Congress fully informed of foreign intelligence activities."

Senate Majority leader Mike Mansfield said he "was pleased with the President's support for a joint committee," adding that it can't help but improve "congressional scrutiny of the nation's intelligence agencies."

Many of the questions asked by

reporters during a 1½-hour briefing by administration officials on the reorganization plan dealt with Ford's plans to halt the leakage of intelligence information.

At one point, Scowcroft was asked to cite a specific example of a leak which had damaged the national security. "I don't think of one specifically that I can tell you A, B, and C has damaged national security," Scowcroft replied.

He added instead that leaks had "a cumulative effect" on intelligence efforts and on the willingness of foreign agencies to cooperate with the United States.

The plan includes the creation of a Committee on Foreign Intelligence headed by CIA director George Bush to manage the funds and other resources of the entire intelligence community. The committee, whose other members are Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Ellsworth, and William Hyland, deputy assistant to the President for national security affairs, would report directly to the National Security Council made up of Ford, Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

A separate committee, called the Operation Advisory Group, will replace the Forty Committee in directing a covert operations. Chaired by Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, the President's assistant for national security affairs, the group will consist of Kissinger, Rumsfeld, Bush and Gen. George Brown, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi and James Lynn, director of the Office of Management and Budget will sit on the panel as observers.

A third panel headed by former ambassador Robert D. Murphy will serve as the Intelligence Oversight Board, receiving reports from the inspectors general of the various agencies and reporting any wrongdoing to the Justice Department. The panel, which will be a subcommittee of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, will include two other members, Stephen Ailes, former secretary of the army, and Leo Cherne, director of the Research Institute of America.

Portions of Ford's executive order remained secret because they referred to sensitive intelligence activities, aides said. But Marsh, who chaired the group which drafted the reorganization plan, said there were no guidelines for covert operations. It would be up to members of the Operations Advisory Group and the Intelligence Oversight Board to determine which covert operations should be permitted, Marsh said.

Bush told reporters that Ford opposes

informing Congress of covert operations before they are undertaken. "You don't have to run the operation by Congress before it's enacted," Bush said. Asked how Congress could stop a covert action it opposed, Bush said it could cut off funds as it did with U.S. arms aid to Angola.

According to a document published Wednesday by the Village Voice, the House intelligence committee concluded that U.S. intelligence agencies are beyond the scrutiny of Congress. The document, which was identified as part of the committee's still-secret report, said "paramilitary operations of the worst type seemed to come from outside" the CIA and were ordered by former President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

The statement was made in reference to U.S. activities in Chile during the presidency of Salvador Allende and U.S. support for the Kurdish rebellion in Iraq.