

Other Units Called 'Patsies'

New House Panel on CIA Is Sought

11/8/75
By Mary Russell
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House Democrats dissatisfied with Congressional oversight of the Central Intelligence Agency will seek to create a new House Select Committee on Intelligence when the 291 House Democrats caucus Monday and Tuesday.

Rep. Michael J. Harrington (D-Mass.), author of the select committee proposal, said, "Every time I read that major, independent congressional committees are going to undertake investigations at the current allegations of illegal domestic surveillance by the CIA, I want to laugh. The day-to-day record of those committees is replete with indications that they didn't know or didn't want to know what's going on."

Harrington charged that, in fact, the committees had been "willing patsies" for the CIA, providing a "fictional cover" of congressional approval.

In a letter to Democratic Caucus Chairman Phillip Burton (D-Calif.), Harrington charged that last year the House Armed Services sub-

committee on intelligence, headed by Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi (D-Mich.), "devoted more time in hearings concerned with the unauthorized disclosure of classified information than with widespread accusations of improper agency actions."

He said his proposed select committee would look into not only the current allegations of domestic surveillance but "all facets of both CIA operations and congressional oversight."

"Left in the hands of the new presidential commission and the existing oversight committees, the CIA can be expected to weather the current controversy with little change in its policy and operations," Harrington said.

A Senate Armed Services subcommittee headed by John C. Stennis (D-Miss) has jurisdiction over the CIA on the Senate side, while the House Foreign Affairs Committee shares some jurisdiction on the House side.

Nedzi has already announced plans to investigate the current charges that the CIA spied on Americans in the United States and said

yesterday that formation of a new panel would just "duplicate efforts" of his committee. He said last year's committee reorganizations were intended "to streamline committees and not proliferate them."

"Rep. Harrington's free to charge whatever he desires, but in the final analysis the record with disclose we have done an extremely diligent and effective job since we have done an extremely diligent and effective job since record will disclose we have been delegated the responsibility for the CIA," Nedzi declared.

Nedzi said his subcommittee wasn't established until late in 1971 and "didn't get organized until 1972." By that time, he said, allegations of CIA participation in Watergate and other domestic activities had "all been known already."

"Of the current allegations," Nedzi said, "While we have had some information on domestic operations, it did not correspond to the implications recently printed in the press and that's why we intend to hold hearings."

Harrington called his proposal's chances in caucus "probably pretty good." After that would come a floor vote by the full House.

Harrington said formation of a special congressional CIA committee—"an independent investigatory mechanism"—has already been endorsed by former CIA director John McCone and Clark Clifford, former chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Meanwhile, Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (R-Conn.) said he will reintroduce legislation to create a Senate-House oversight committee with "broad powers to police the U.S. intelligence community." A Senate Government Operations subcommittee held two days of hearings last year on the proposal, which Weicker said had "the support of over one-third of the Senate."

One function of the proposed joint committee would be to authorize the funding for the CIA and the National Security Agency, so that their budgets could not be concealed in defense appropriations bills, Weicker said.

Rockefeller Unit on Domestic Spying To Meet Monday With CIA's Colby

United Press International.

Vice President Rockefeller announced yesterday his special commission to investigate alleged domestic spying by the Central Intelligence Agency will hold its first meeting next week with CIA director William E. Colby and others.

The others were not named, but are expected to include Ambassador to Iran Richard M. Helms, who headed the CIA during the time of the alleged surveillance of American war protesters and other dissidents.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger also is expected to attend the initial session.

A spokesman for Rockefeller, named by President Ford Saturday to head the commission, released a telegram in which the Vice President told the other seven members:

"I am calling the first meeting for Monday, Jan. 13, starting at 10:30 a.m. in my office, Room 275, of the Executive Office Building.

"Mr. Colby, head of the CIA, and others will join us during the course of the day."

Rockefeller's quick move to get the investigation going apparently reflected the concern of top government officials that the agency's intelligence-gathering abroad might be hampered unless questions about its activities are cleared up quickly.

Several top CIA officials already have stepped down in

the wake of published reports that the agency conducted domestic surveillance in violation of its 1947 charter from Congress.

Several congressional committees plan hearings on the issue after the 94th Congress convenes Tuesday, and some members have proposed creation of a special committee to oversee CIA activities.

Sens. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (R-Conn.) and Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.) announced yesterday they would introduce legislation to set up a joint congressional oversight committee.

"The Congress doesn't need any more fact-finding, or any more bombshells, to get down to the business of mandating agency accountability," Weicker said in a statement.

In another development yesterday, Sen. William Proxmire, (D-Wis.) said in a statement that in investigation of the CIA, "great care should be exercised not to disturb the vitally important intelligence-collection effort going on abroad."

Administration officials said Helms, back in Washington

from his post in Teheran, would be available to congressional investigators as well as the presidential commission.