

THE CIA:

Choosing Up Sides

Congress served notice last week that its investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency was for real. By a vote of 82 to 4, the Senate authorized a select committee to probe not only the CIA's domestic operations, but the whole shadow world of U.S. intelligence. House Democrats unexpectedly followed suit, as Armed Services intelligence subcommittee chairman Lucien Nedzi of Michigan agreed to yield authority to a select committee of seven Democrats and three Republicans, reflecting the new lopsided make-up of the House. In both bodies, the "old boys" who have traditionally monitored the CIA were virtually shut out of the investigations. "It used to be fashionable for members of Congress to say that, insofar as the intelligence agen-

given security clearances—by some of the same intelligence agencies that they will be investigating. Extensive research must be done on the nineteen individual agencies involved. Once it begins, the committee will do much of its work behind closed doors, with perhaps only a few weeks for public hearings, probably televised. The panel has till Sept. 1 to finish its inquiry, but its life span—and \$750,000 budget—could easily grow.

Excesses: Nelson Rockefeller's CIA inquiry, meanwhile, continued with an interrogation of National Security Council staffer Richard Ober, who had headed the supersecret CIA unit that spied on antiwar dissidents in the U.S. and abroad. Ober's testimony was not released, but the Vice President had already told TV interviewers "I think we are going to find that the answer is yes" to charges that the CIA exceeded its authority by conducting domestic surveillance. Rockefeller al-

cies were concerned, the less they knew about such questions, the better," observed Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield. "It is about time that attitude went out of fashion."

The new attitude was clearly defined in the six Democrats Mansfield named to join five Republicans on the Senate panel: liberals Frank Church of Idaho, Philip Hart of Michigan, Walter Mondale of Minnesota and freshman Gary Hart of Colorado, moderate Walter Huddleston of Kentucky and conservative freshman Robert Morgan of North Carolina. The chairman was Church, 50, a fourth-term senator with Presidential ambitions who came out early against U.S. military involvement in Indochina and, last year, was instrumental in an investigation of the CIA's role in the overthrow of Chile's elected Marxist government.

It will be several weeks before the Senate committee can get down to business. Staff members must be chosen and

so disclosed that his investigation would not be limited to the Nixon years but that it would go "right back to the beginning" of the CIA in 1947.

Amid the profusion of investigations, reports of overzealous domestic intelligence gathering also proliferated. A Senate Watergate committee memo surfaced with a familiar story: that President Johnson had bugged the hotel suite of Martin Luther King during the 1964 Democratic convention, picking up conversations between King and Robert Kennedy. Documents leaked from a Senate Judiciary subcommittee showed that during the Nixon Administration the Internal Revenue Service had compiled personal dossiers on members of such antiwar groups as the National Council of Churches. And a similar subcommittee in the House was looking into charges that the FBI's counterintelligence program had hounded a leftist Arizona State University professor out of his job in 1970

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by denouncing him to the university in anonymous letters. When the Senate and House select committees begin their investigations, more such allegations are sure to turn up.

—SANDRA SALMANS with EVERT CLARK and SAMUEL SHAFFER in Washington