

War Critic To Check On CIA

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The pro-military chairman of the House Armed Services Committee has named an active antiwar congressman to head the subcommittee that keeps watch on the Central Intelligence Agency.

Chairman F. Edward Hebert (D-La.), turning down the post himself, appointed Rep. Lucien Nedzi (D-Mich.), a leading Pentagon critic, to head the special subcommittee on intelligence.

Asked why he chose Nedzi, Hebert said, "Because he's a good man, even though we're opposed philosophically."

Hebert's predecessor, the late L. Mendel Rivers (D-S.C.), considered the subcommittee chairmanship so important that he assigned himself to fill it.

Not only did Hebert not take the post, but he told Nedzi "to make periodic inquiries into all phases of intelligence activities within the Department of Defense and within the agencies established under the National Security Act, and to make legislative recommendations when appropriate."

Besides the CIA, Nedzi will have jurisdiction over the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, two highly secret branches of the Defense Department.

One of his first acts, said Nedzi, would be to hold public hearings on U.S. intelligence-gathering activities. An eight-year veteran of the full committee, he said Hebert had placed "no restrictions of any sort" on him.

One of his first goals, Nedzi said, would be "to reconcile the public's right to know with the national security."

Although the Michigan Democrat has been critical of the Vietnam war and Pentagon policies, he said he had a high regard for CIA Director Richard Helms.

"I have been tremendously impressed with Mr. Helms from the few occasions he has appeared before the Armed Services Committee," Nedzi said.