

House Votes to Establish Intelligence

Ray - over

By Mary Russell

Washington Post Staff Writer

After a rancorous, partisan debate, the House voted 227 to 171 yesterday to establish a permanent committee to oversee the activities of the intelligence agencies.

The new committee will have 13 members, nine Democrats and four Republicans. It will have exclusive jurisdiction over the Central Intelligence Agency and its activities and share oversight of other intelligence agencies. In addition, it will be able to make regulations that limit access other House members now have to intelligence information.

The House ethics committee will also have the right to censure or expel any member or fire any employee who makes an unauthorized disclosure of intelligence data. Republicans bitterly opposed the measure establishing the committee

measure, while 128 opposed it.

Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) complained that the overwhelmingly Democratic makeup of the committee would "blatantly politicize" its operation and said the lack of safeguards would "raise the question of whether intelligence agencies would make any material available."

Third-ranking Republican John B. Anderson (R-Ill.) charged that the take-it-or-leave-it procedure which prevented amendments being offered on the floor was "tragic" and an "insult to our intelligence."

"This is not an animal farm where we all beat and bray on signal," Anderson said.

An angry Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill Jr. (D-Mass.) shouted at Rhodes that he had consulted him and Rhodes had told him that he was in favor of the committee. "I wish the minority leader could lead instead of

There is no partisanship dealing with matters of the country," O'Neill said, raising his fist on the rostrum. Rhodes said he was "a speaker's trade," and had never agreed to the thing up the committee.

Liberal Democrats also say the committee was lashed on the grounds intelligence information available to every House member could be cut off.

Rep. Robert N. Giaimo said, "The secrets of the American people have been well protected. But they have been protected by the American people."

Giaimo said it was agencies' abuses of citizens, such as wiretapping, investigating activities of domestic organizations—



Oversight Committee

Rep. Michael J. Harrington (D-Mass.) said, "After all we've been through, we're saying 'trust us' once again."

Rep. Edward P. Boland (D-Mass.), whom O'Neill has announced he will appoint to be chairman of the new committee, said, "Don't lose sight of why we are here today . . . The very purpose of this committee is to protect the rights of Americans."

And Rep. Richard Bolling (D-Mo.) called the measure the "last best chance" to create an intelligence committee. He said it had been "carefully crafted" to avoid offending those who "believe in perfect liberty" and those who believe in "greater security."

He said voting it down would cause the creation of a committee that was much worse.

One member said afterward the secrecy in drafting the details of creating the committee was "one of the better covert operations ever." The measure was drafted by one leadership employee negotiating with various committees and members, then presented to the Rules Committee and quickly voted out earlier this week.



REP. JOHN J. RHODES
... cites lack of safeguards