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Senate Creates CIA Panel

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By Spencer Rich

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The Senate yesterday created a permanent select committee to monitor the Central Intelligence Agency and military intelligence-gathering agencies.

Before the resolution was adopted, 72 to 22, the Senate defeated, 63 to 31 a last-ditch effort by Sens. John G. Tower (R-Tex.) and Armed Services Committee chairman John C. Stennis (D-Miss.) to strip the new committee of its legislative jurisdiction over the Na-

tional Security Agency, the
Defense Intelligence Agency
creand other military intelligence units, and leave it
with full control only over
the CIA.

Creation of the new Committee on Intelligence Activities came after 15 months of disclosures by temporary House and Senate investigation panels of CIA and military spying on civilians, record-keeping on citizens not suspected of crimes, and CIA assassination plots.

The new 15-member committee has exclusive jurisdiction over any legislation affecting the CIA and the director of central intelligence. It has the power to issue subpoenas for information from intelligence-gathering agencies.

The committee will share legislative jurisdiction with the Armed Services Committee over the DIA, the NSA and military intelligence agencies and will share jurisdiction over the FBI with the Judiciary Committee.

Bills affecting military in-See OVERSIGHT, A14, Col. 1 provides that any information — including spending ceilings—that the President wants kept secret on national security grounds shall be kept secret, unless the new committee goes to the Senate and obtains its permission in closed session to declassify and publish the materials.

Stennis, Tower, Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) and others ridiculed the idea that the whole authorizing process could be conducted in closed sessions without vital secrets leaking out.

Goldwater declared, "I don't care if you have a committee of one. It's almost impossible to stop leaks". He said the temporary intelligence committee that Church headed, despite a hard effort, had suffered a few leaks and its House counterpart, headed by Rep. Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.)" was a sieve."

The resolution setting up the committee doesn't give it the right to veto any CIA or military intelligence plan for covert operations abroad, but it does request these agencies to keep the committee fully and currently informed of their activities, including "any significant anticipated activites." If its members strongly opposed any such activity, they could presum-ably go to the President and advise him of their opposition, and if that didn't work, seek senate permission to reveal the plan in advance, thereby scotching it, though such extreme actions might be rare or virtually nil.

The final resolution was a compromise, put together by Ribicoff Mansfield, Howard W. Cannon (D-Nev.) and Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) when it appeared the Senate might battle for weeks over whether to adopt a Ribicoff version giving the new committee even broader powers than it ended up with, and a Rules Committee version giving it investigative powers only, with all legislative authority taken out.

No action on the Senate resolution is required by the House or the President.

Speculation immediately began on whom Mansfield and Scott will name as the eight Democratic and seven Republican members.

Four of the Democrats See OVERSIGHT, A15, Col. 8

THE WASHINGTON POST A 14 Thursday, May 20, 1976

New Panel To Oversee Intelligence

OVERSIGHT, From A1

telligence will be reviewed by both Armed Services and the Intelligence committees and then go to the floor for final action. Bills affecting the FBI, similarly, will be reviewed by Judiciary and Intelligence.

The resolution provides that before money can be voted for any of the intelligence agencies each year, the Senate must act on a measure generated by the new committee (or jointly with appropriate other committees) setting spending ceilings and conditions.

Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) will name the 15 members.

The drubbing given the Tower Stennis amendment reflected a belief, flowing from revelation of intelligance abuses, that subcommittees of the Armed Services and Appropriations committees, which long

have had the power to ride herd on such activities, were not doing an adequate job' of keeping them under control.

Tower and Stennis said that giving the new committee legislative power over all intelligence agencies would inevitably lead to revelations of military secrets useful to other countries, would fragment authority over the military and would make it difficult to work out legislation with the House, where there is a similar committee.

Their amendment would have given the Armed Services Committee exclusive legislative jurisdiction over the DIA, NSA and military intelligence units, instead of allowing the new committee to share this jurisdiction with Armed Services.

Sens. Frank However, Church (D-Idaho) and Abraham A. Ribicoff (D-Conn), floor manager of the resolution setting up the new committee, said the DIA, NSA and military agencies have 80 to 90 per cent of the overall intelligence spending, and that their activities and those of the CIA are a "seamless web" of intelligence gathering over which the new committee must have broad jurisdiction to do its job. Church said that without control over budget ceilings for these military agencies, the new committee won't have "the leverage it needs" to really obtain information:

The resolution as adopted

Senate Approves CIA Unit

OVERSIGHT, From A14

and four of the Republicans must be chosen from the four committees with some jurisdiction over intelligence—Armed Services, Appropriations, Judiciary and Foreign Relations. The others will be selected at large.

Among Democrats names frequently heard as possible members were several from the existing temporary committee: Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.), whom many believe will become chairman; Walter (Dee) Huddleton (D-Ky.), Robert B. Morgan (D-N.C.), Church, who said yesterday he isn't eager to serve because "15 months is enough," and Gary W. Hart (D-Colo.).

Other Democrats who have applied or are thought to have an opportunity of being selected are Adlai E. Stevenson (D-III.), William D. Hathaway Maine), John C. Culver (Iowa), and Daniel K. Inouye (Hawaii).

Among Republicans, the leading contenders are believed to be Howard H. Baker Jr. (Tenn.), E. J. (Jake) Garn (Utah), Robert T. Stafford (Vt.), Clifford Tower or Goldwater from Armed Services; Mark O. Hatfield (Ore.) from Appropriations and either Roman L. Huruska (Neb.) or Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (Md.) from Judiciary. Other possibilities are Bob Dole (Kan.), Jacob K. Javits (N.Y.), Paul D. Laxalt (Nev.) and Lowell P. Weicker (Conn.). Tower, Goldwater and Mathias all served on the temporary committee.