

Senate CIA Agreement Fashioned

By Spencer Rich

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Power to set the funding of CIA activities would be given to a new Senate select committee on intelligence under a compromise drafted yesterday by Sens. Howard W. Cannon (D-Nev.) and Abraham A. Ribicoff (D-Conn.) with the backing of Senate leaders.

As shaped yesterday, the compromise appears to have headed off a fight over how the Senate would exercise oversight over U.S. intelligence.

Sen. John Tower (R-Tex.) said that, while he opposes creation of an oversight committee, it now appears there will not be a filibuster. "I don't think one could be sustained," he said.

Ribicoff said a vote could conceivably come this week as a result of the compromise. "If it were not for this compromise, there certainly would have been a filibuster," Cannon said.

One of the major questions in creation of the select committee was whether the Armed Services, Judiciary and Foreign Relations

committees should retain jurisdiction over legislation and over funding ceilings for the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, and Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the State Department.

Armed Services Chairman John Stennis (D-Miss.) and many others preferred to leave funding authorizations and legislative jurisdiction with the standing committees, empowering the proposed committee only to investigate.

Cannon's Rules Committee approved a measure doing just that. Ribicoff's Government Operations Committee, however, reported out a resolution shifting the legislative and funding authority to the new committee.

Under the compromise, both Cannon and Ribicoff said, the new committee would have legislative jurisdiction over the CIA and the director of intelligence, including the power to authorize appropriations ceilings. Ribicoff said this would provide "the leverage" needed for proper oversight.

However, the intelligence functions of the other agencies—FBI, NSA, DIA and INR—would be under the joint jurisdiction of both the new 17-member intelligence committee and the committees which already exercise them.

The compromise also requires that all funds for CIA and the other intelligence agencies be authorized annually.