

Panel Head Presses Clinton, CIA

By Walter Pincus
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The outgoing chairman of the House intelligence committee believes a "serious" gap has grown between the president and the CIA, and it needs to be closed.

Rep. Dan Glickman (D-Kan.), in an interview looking back on his six years on the committee, the last two as chairman, said, "There is a serious distance between the White House and the CIA" that is harmful to President Clinton, the agency and the development of foreign policy.

This is not the first time officials have expressed concern about Clinton's relationship with the CIA, although Glickman is the first knowledgeable official to discuss it publicly. As an example of the problem, Glickman said Clinton and CIA Director R. James Woolsey should have cooperated more closely in the case of confessed spy Aldrich H. Ames.

"The magnitude of the losses cried out for more active White House participation," Glickman said. Instead, he added, "Woolsey did it all by himself which minimized its qualitative and quantitative importance."

Glickman said Anthony Lake, Clinton's national security adviser, "needs to sit down and do a reevaluation of the role between the White House and the agency . . . and decide how to close the relationship." He said it ought to be done before the new Republican-controlled Congress goes into session in January.

"This is not all the White House's fault," Glickman said. Woolsey "could take some initiative," he said, while declining to provide details.

Woolsey rarely sees the president but has a weekly Wednesday afternoon session with Lake. Early in the administration, the White House canceled scheduled CIA intelligence briefings, and agency officials complained privately that the cancellations illustrated Clinton's lack of interest in intelligence and foreign policy. Late in 1993, Lake responded by designing the morning briefings to include a 15-minute CIA presentation three times a week.

Woolsey has had a hard time on Capitol Hill the past two years and was sharply criticized recently by the Senate intelligence committee for the mildness of the punishments handed out to active and retired agency personnel involved in the Ames case.

Woolsey's problems on the Hill and lack of a personal relationship with Clinton have fueled speculation in Congress and the administration that the director could be replaced in coming months. Glickman refused to discuss that. Asked about Glickman's comments, White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said yesterday, "The CIA has served the president well and we expect that to continue." While acknowledging the Ames case illustrated that "clearly there have been problems at the agency, Woolsey has undertaken some changes."

A CIA spokesman declined to comment on Glickman's statements.

Myers also said members of a congressionally mandated presidential

commission to study intelligence in the post-Cold War world are about to be named.

Les Aspin, former defense secretary and now chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB), is to be chairman. Former senator Warren B. Rudman (R-N.H.), vice chairman of PFIAB, is to be vice chairman of the new group. In addition, the other 10 members of the PFIAB will be regular or ex officio members of the 17-member panel.

According to congressional sources, the eight panel members to be named by the House and Senate leaders from both parties include: Sen. John W. Warner (R-Va.), who wrote the legislation that created the panel; Sen. J. James Exon (D-Neb.), a longtime member of the Senate Armed Services Committee; former senator Wyche Fowler Jr. (D-Ga.), once a member of the House intelligence committee; Rep. Norman D. Dicks (D-Wash.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, and former representative Tony Coelho (D-Calif.).

In the Ames case, Glickman said, the lack of close White House/CIA relations meant the agency ended up "looking weaker than it should be and the public has less faith in it." He added it was ironic Woolsey has "the Ames case hanging around his neck

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to Close Gap

when it really occurred while [William J.] Casey, [William H.] Webster, and [Robert M.] Gates were directors."

Glickman, defeated for reelection last month, said the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—its formal name—under GOP leadership "will do an aggressive job" investigating why senior Republican members were misled several years ago when they asked CIA officials about the apparent loss of Soviet agents.

The intelligence committee's report on its investigation into the CIA's handling of the Ames case, released Wednesday, charged there was "a pattern of lack of candor by senior CIA officials in answering questions of committee members about the losses of Soviet assets." The report described five times between 1988 and 1992 when inquiring members were misled or not given information known to the CIA about losses of agents and operations that were finally disclosed to Congress earlier this year after Ames was arrested.

Rep. Bud Shuster (R-Pa.) was apparently one of those misled while he was ranking Republican on the intelligence panel during the 1990-1992 period. Although he refused to provide details, Shuster said in a telephone interview the "report was accurate" and he was "very unhappy with the CIA."