

Strong Oversight For CIA Is Set Back

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Proponents of a strong permanent Senate oversight committee on intelligence received two setbacks yesterday in the Senate Rules Committee.

The committee has before it a resolution, approved in March by the Senate Government Operations Committee, which would establish a permanent committee along the lines favored by Chairman Frank Church (D-Idaho) and a majority of the members of his select intelligence committee.

Yesterday, however, Rules Committee Chairman Howard W. Cannon (D-Nev.) introduced a substitute proposal that would create another select committee to study almost the identical subjects covered by the Church committee's 15-month inquiry.

This new committee would draw most of its members from the four standing Senate committees that already have jurisdiction over various parts of the intelligence community.

It would be required to report back to the Senate by July 1, 1977.

Among the studies it would be required to undertake would be one on "the desirability of establishing a joint committee of the Senate and the House . . . on intelligence activities."

The new committee would oversee the Central Intelligence Agency and other intelligence units but it would not have either legislative or budgetary authority. The committee proposed by the Church study would have these powers:

Sen. Dick Clark (D-Iowa) said that Cannon's substitute "would repudiate the Church committee report" and "largely repudiate" the Government Operations Committee resolution.

Cannon responded that he "no compound the problem of separate committees that already are dealing with intelligence on a day-to-day basis." Cannon is a member of one of these committees, Armed Services.

Three other members of

the nine-man Senate Rules Committee expressed some support for the Cannon plan. They are James B. Allen (D-Ala.), Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) and Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.).

Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-Va.) said that with some changes he would lean toward the Cannon select committee plan rather than the permanent standing committee that is called for in the resolution approved by the Government Operations Committee.

In a second action, the Rules Committee approved 5 to 4, an amendment that would require any new oversight panel to share jurisdiction with other committees already involved in intelligence oversight.

These include the Armed Services and Appropriations committees, which have been criticized for exercising little oversight of covert foreign intelligence operations in the past.