

Report wants CIA-FBI acts to be curtailed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Intelligence Committee, reporting U.S. intelligence agencies used illegal burglary, bugging and blackmail to spy on the private lives of Americans, on Wednesday called for tight controls on the CIA and FBI, particularly by Congress.

In a 396-page report, the committee detailed previously disclosed abuses such as CIA domestic spying, the FBI's COINTELPRO program and electronic eavesdropping by the National Security Agency. It made 96 recommendations to sharply curtail FBI activities and prohibit other agencies from virtually any involvement in domestic investigations.

"All this occurred because intelligence

agencies were ordered to break the law, felt they had a right to break the law, and even felt they had a duty ... to break the law," Sen. Walter Mondale, D-Minn., said. Sen. Richard Schwieker, R-Pa., added that "Congress bears a heavy responsibility for ignoring its constitutional oversight role."

Two Republican members of the committee, Vice Chairman John Tower and Sen. Barry Goldwater, refused to sign the report, saying the recommendations went far beyond the abuses. Another Republican, Sen. Howard H. Baker, said, "The best thing about this is that it's over. We've finished it without doing undue damage to the agencies of the government."

The recommendations included a new

congressional panel to oversee intelligence activities, a virtual end to domestic spying by the CIA, NSA and military intelligence, a requirement for the FBI to obtain warrants for wiretaps or break-ins and the destruction of intelligence files obtained illegally.

The report, which contained few new revelations of government wrongdoing, made the following major findings:

—"Too many people have been spied upon by too many government agencies." FBI headquarters has over 500,000 domestic intelligence files; the CIA opened nearly a quarter-million letters; NSA obtained millions of private telegrams; the Army created intelligence files on an estimated 100,000

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Americans, and the Internal Revenue Service created dossiers on 11,000 individuals and groups on the basis of their political beliefs.

—"The intelligence agencies have collected vast amounts of information about the intimate details of citizens' lives and about their participation in legal and peaceful political activities."

—"The women's liberation movement was infiltrated by FBI informants. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was the subject of a 25-year investigation. Army intelligence opened files on Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson, D-Ill., and Rep. Abner Mikva, D-Ill., because of their participation in peaceful political meetings.

—"Army agents also searched for dissidents at a Halloween party for elementary school children and a conference of priests discussing birth control, while the FBI ordered investigations of every Black Student Union regardless of their involvement in disorders.

—"Covert action programs have been used to disrupt the lawful political activities of individual Americans and groups and to discredit them, using dangerous and degrading tactics which are abhorrent in a free and decent society."

As part of COINTELPRO, the FBI

used paid informants and anonymous letters in efforts to break up marriages, cost people their jobs, and incite open warfare among rival dissident groups. The bureau's program to destroy Martin Luther King Jr. included efforts to discredit him with churches, universities and the press, to destroy his marriage and the sending of an anonymous note which King interpreted as a suggestion that he commit suicide.

—"The most sweeping domestic intelligence surveillance programs have produced surprisingly few useful results." Between 1960 and 1974 the FBI conducted over 500,000 investigations of persons suspected of being subversives, "yet not a single individual or group has been prosecuted." The General Accounting Office estimated that of more than 17,000 FBI domestic intelligence investigations in 1974, "only 1.3 per cent resulted in prosecution and conviction."

—"Senior officials frequently ignored the possible illegality or unconstitutionality of intelligence-gathering programs and occasionally carried out activities they knew to be illegal. William Sullivan, who for 10 years headed the FBI's intelligence division, told the committee "never once did I hear anybody, including myself, raise the question: 'Is this course of action which we have agreed upon lawful, is it legal, is it

ethical or moral?" An internal FBI memo discussing the hundreds of break-ins, or "black bag jobs," conducted by the bureau stated that the technique was "clearly illegal."

Blaming abuses on excessive executive power and secrecy, the committee declared that "intelligence activities which undermine individual rights must end." It recommended that:

—"CIA, NSA and military intelligence agencies be barred from domestic security activity except in cases involving their own employees;

—"The FBI be required to obtain a judicial warrant before using wiretaps, break-ins or mail openings in domestic investigations;

—"NSA be required to obtain a warrant before monitoring "any communication to, from or about an American" unless it involves foreign spy or terrorist activities; and

—"All past intelligence collected through illegal techniques should be locked up or destroyed.

Committee members stressed that the report's most crucial recommendation was creation of a new congressional panel to monitor intelligence agencies. "Without that, the great work of this committee will have been lost," Mondale said.

Publication of the report, entitled "Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans," came two days after release of a similar volume on foreign intelligence activities and all but ended an unprecedented 15-month investigation of U.S. spy agencies.

The committee traced the growth of domestic intelligence activities to 1934 when President Roosevelt ordered FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to investigate the Nazi movement in the United States.