

# Oversight Committee Plan Eyed

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A compromise plan for a permanent Senate committee to oversee intelligence activities was worked out yesterday in an attempt to head off a floor debate that one senator said threatened to approach "a civil war in which everyone would get a black eye."

Participating in the closed door negotiations in the office of Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) were the chairmen and key members of two Senate committees, Government Operations and Rules, that have approved conflicting proposals for a new oversight committee.

According to sources who participated in the sessions, the key points in the compromise plan are:

- The committee would have 17 senators, including two from each of the four committees that now have jurisdiction over intelligence agencies.

- The term of membership on the new committee would be a maximum of nine years. Staff members would not serve fixed terms.

- The new committee would have exclusive jurisdiction over the Central Intelligence Agency. It would have primary jurisdiction over the FBI's intelligence activities and over intelligence operations of the military services, but would share that jurisdiction with the Judiciary Committee, in the FBI's case, and with Armed Services in matters dealing with the Pentagon and individual services.

- Legislation applying to intelligence matters would first be considered by the new committee, then referred to the older standing

committee.

- Several controversial methods for establishing a system by which intelligence information could be disclosed over the objections of the President were set aside.

Instead, the compromise plan calls for adherence to  
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Rule 35, which provides that information given to the Senate cannot be released without a vote of the full Senate. Traditionally, the Senate has given each committee the authority to set its own disclosure rules.

Whether the new committee would have authority over the budgets of the CIA and other intelligence agencies has yet to be ironed out. A staff group was to meet last night to work out language that, according to one source, "would allow the new committee to participate" in the budget process.

Since Senate Majority Whip Robert C. Byrd (D-W. Va.) and Rules Chairman Howard W. Cannon (D-Nev.) participated in the meetings and reportedly agreed to the compromise, chances for approval of the proposal appeared good.

The compromise is planned to be introduced today when the Senate intelligence, debate is scheduled to begin.

Mansfield, according to informed sources, is to head the list of co-sponsors that includes Government Operations Chairman Abraham A. Ribicoff (D-Conn.); that committee's ranking Republican, Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.); and Sen. Lowell P. Weicker (R-Conn.), another committee member.

Two members of the Senate intelligence committee, Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.) and Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.), are expected to be co-sponsors.

The compromise, however, faces strong opposition from some members of the Armed Services Committee who do not want to give up their jurisdiction over the CIA.

"It doesn't sound like a compromise to me," said a key staff member from Armed Services who noted that his chairman, Sen. John C. Stennis (D-Miss.) had not been involved in the discussions.

The negotiation process began yesterday morning with a meeting of Mansfield, Byrd, Cannon and Ribicoff. At that session, according to informed sources, Mansfield argued for compromise and the avoidance of a tough debate.