

Weicker Says Hill Has Duty To Police Intelligence Setup

By Murrey Marder
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A repeat of the Watergate scandal is very likely unless Congress polices the "giant intelligence bureaucracies," Sen. Lowell P. Weicker (R-Conn.) testified yesterday.

"It is the duty of Congress, not the option in a democracy, to police the vast intelligence setup," Weicker told the Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations headed by Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine). The subcommittee is considering bills to improve congressional review of intelligence agencies.

Weicker, who was a member of the Senate Watergate investigating committee, said that inquiry "exposed how willing the CIA was to be used—at least at the outset—and how close the White House came to turning the CIA and the FBI into a political police force."

"All the conditions are there for a repeat performance," said Weicker, if Congress continues its fragmented system of intelligence review. "It's very difficult to change the establishment around here," Muskie remarked.

According to estimates, Weicker said, the U.S. intelligence community "employs 150,000 personnel on an annual budget of \$6.2 billion." Two of the largest, National Security Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency, he noted, were created not by legislation but by "executive fiat."

All witnesses before the subcommittee yesterday agreed on the need or improved congressional review of intelligence, including two former senior officials of the Central Intelligence Agency, Ray S. Cline and Harold P. Ford. There was disagreement, how-

ever, on the effectiveness of the intelligence bureaucracy.

Ford, a former deputy director of CIA's office of political research, and currently program director for the Washington Institute for the Study of Ethics and International Affairs, testified that:

"An unacceptable situation has resulted: the Congress allocates national resources in the dark, for fairly obscure intelligence ends, and at times for an obfuscating executive officialdom; the public foots the bill, buying more intelligence than is necessary, and at the cost of other demanding national priorities; the country suffers embarrassment and



HAROLD P. FORD



RAY S. CLINE

... CIA ex-officials agree on need for Hill scrutiny

reduced national power, as self-defeating covert activities reduce world respect for U.S. acuity and distinctiveness."

"I don't personally think that there are very serious abuses in the intelligence community today," testified Cline, who was CIA deputy director for intelligence from 1962 to 1966, and director of intelligence and research for the State Department, 1969-73.

The problem has been "abuses of the President in trying to use the intelligence agencies" said Cline, now executive director for the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Congressional review of intelligence however, "has usually been somewhat erratic and perfunctory rather than systematic and constructive," Cline said.