

# Bill Introduced to Bolster U.S. Intelligence Agencies

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A proposed charter governing U.S. spy agencies, introduced yesterday in the Senate, would allow domestic spying on Americans and let the CIA keep its secrets more secret.

Only a handful of congressmen would act as the public's monitor of spying activities.

The bill would free the CIA of some restraints but would ensure that "no more could any intelligence agency conceivably be out of control," said a prime sponsor, Sen. Walter D. Huddleston (D-Ky.).

The charter legislation demanded by President Carter in his State of the Union message last month was first proposed as a way to curb CIA abuses which came to light in the mid-1970s.

However, the bill introduced Friday, at a time of crises in Iran and Afghanistan, is heavy with provisions that Carter and many members of Congress say are needed to help the CIA do a better job of predicting troublespots.

Carter praised Huddleston and his Senate Intelligence subcommittee, saying tough negotiations between the panel and the White House had led to "virtually complete agreement" on the proposed charter.

Huddleston's subcommittee decided to press for the bill despite disagreement on several issues. These include whether to require the CIA to tell the House and Senate Intelligence committees everything they ask, to tell them in advance before certain undercover operations, and whether to order criminal penalties against private citizens who reveal a secret agent's name which they learn without access to classified information.

Major provisions in the bill, which would affect the CIA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, would:

- Allow intelligence agents to carry out court-authorized eavesdropping, burglarizing or opening mail of Americans in the United States if they were known spies. Any American overseas could be spied on if the president determined it was "essential to

the national security" and if he obtained a special warrant from a secret court.

- Prohibit paid use of American-based reporters, clergymen or educators as "covers" for foreign intelligence, but would not bar "voluntary contact or voluntary exchange of information" with U.S. spies.

- Make most CIA files exempt from the Freedom of Information Act without regard to sensitivity. The act is intended to curb official secrecy and expand public access to government files.

- Ban assassinations but leave open a wide range of intelligence operations in foreign nations.

- Order criminal penalties for anyone who uses his formal access to classified information to publicly identify a U.S. secret agent.

- Reduce spy agency notification requirements from eight congressional committees to the two Intelligence committees, or only the top officials of those panels in time of emergency.

That notification requirement, though greatly eased from present rules, is still a sticking point between the senators and the Carter administration.

(The American Civil Liberties Union quickly denounced the Senate proposal. "Far from guaranteeing that abuses will not recur as President Carter promised in his State of the Union message, this bill would invite their repetition," said ACLU representatives John Shattuck and Ira Glasser. "This is not intelligence reform.")