

Intelligence budget remains secret

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford's budget director refused to disclose U.S. intelligence costs publicly to the select House Intelligence Committee Friday, and the committee chairman said secret costs figures are not much help either.

"Those numbers do not include huge chunks of dollars that are used for intelligence gathering," said Rep. Otis G. Pike, D-N.Y.

At the same time, Budget Director James T. Lynn testified that three of the six examiners who prepare recommendations for the President on his intelligence budget are former Central Intelligence Agency employees.

Across the Capitol, it was disclosed that former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew had asked the Select Senate Intelligence Committee for a chance to testify against stories that the former Greek military government contributed funds through the CIA for the Nixon-Agnew campaign.

Lynn refused to give the House committee publicly even an over-all intelligence activities, saying that under present law doing so could "subject me to criminal violation."

But Lynn said he and CIA Director William E. Colby will give the committee details on the U.S. intelligence costs in closed session.

He also said he recognizes it is the

prerogative of the committee and Congress to enact law, as some members have said they want to do, to require public disclosure of the intelligence costs in the future.

Pike said he has already been given some over-all cost figures privately and said, "I frankly find the numbers, even classified as they are, designed to conceal more than they are to reveal."

The chairman said he did not contend this was done "for bad purposes" but said the figures simply lack detail and do not include all intelligence-gathering activity.

Lynn said Congress set up its own procedure for oversight which gives only a few congressmen access to details on U.S. intelligence operations and spending.

The budget director and Donald G. Oglebie, head of the OMB's national security and international affairs section, said the director and two of the five examiners in the branch dealing with intelligence are former CIA employees.

"This certainly raises serious questions of objectivity," said Rep. Ronald V. Dellums, D-Calif.

Lynn said he doesn't believe this does affect their objectivity saying that like any other former employees of any other agency their loyalties are to their new jobs.

"To say a person cannot serve because he has prior experience in an agency is not right," Lynn said.

But Rep. James P. Johnson, R-Colo., said there are also CIA people on the National Security Council which approves all intelligence operations.

"So we have that kind of round-robin situation," Johnson said, in which CIA people approve operations proposed by the CIA for which funding is reviewed by a budget unit half of whose examiners are former CIA employees.

"I believe that is overstated," Oglebie said. "I believe there is only one CIA employee detailed to the National Security Council."

Colby told the committee, headed by Rep. Bella Abzug, D.N.Y., that it would be impossible to delete sensitive references to intelligence sources and methods in the documents within the committee's Aug. 15 deadline. The committee is considering subpoenaing the records.

Former Vice President Agnew issued a statement saying that he wants to testify before the select Senate committee "because of the irresponsible rumors and publicity about my having knowledge involving the former Greek government with contributions through the CIA to the Nixon-Agnew campaign."