

Probe Set Of Leak To Schorr

By Mary Russell

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The House yesterday voted to provide \$150,000 for the House Ethics Committee to investigate the leak of a House Intelligence Committee report to CBS newsman Daniel Schorr.

After the 278-to-87 vote, Ethics Committee chairman John J. Flynt (D-Ga.) said the 11 investigators and three attorneys he now can hire would begin immediately to interview those who might know something about the leak.

Schorr passed on the Intelligence Committee's report to The Village Voice after the House had voted to keep it secret. The House then voted for an Ethics Committee investigation of the leak to Schorr.

Flynt had asked for \$350,000 to pay investigators and hire staff, but a House Administration subcommittee and then the full committee cut him back to \$150,000, a figure not challenged on the floor yesterday.

Though Rep. Bellas Adzug (D-N.Y.) called the proposed investigation "a witcount" that could lead to a "serious constitutional invasion of the rights of a free press," Flynt said the overwhelming vote showed the House did not intend to "rebuff" the

investigation.

Flynt refused to say who would be interviewed first and would only say the number interviewed would fall somewhere between 30 and 400. He said, "At this point it would be inappropriate for me or any other member or anyone connected with the committee to make a firm statement on the direction and course the investigation might take."

He refused to rule out investigating Central Intelligence Agency employees, members of the executive branch, other journalists besides Schorr, as well as members and staff of the intelligence committee. As for possible contempt of Congress citations against Schorr or any journalist who might refuse to reveal a source, Flynt said, "We hope we won't be confronted with that, but we'll decide when we are."

Flynt said the delay of about a month and 10 days in getting funds from the House Administration Committee "hurt" the investigation in that "certain sources cooled off," adding, "as in any investigation the trail gets cold." When people volunteered information "we had to tell them we were not in a position to proceed and their enthusiasm waned," he said.

Flynt said that members of Congress as well as others had come to him volunteering to answer questions or testify.

A House Administration subcommittee had originally ordered Flynt to use up to \$75,000 of the \$150,000 to provide counsel for those who might be questioned and couldn't afford a lawyer, a provision defeated by the full committee.