

# GOP boycott cancels CIA hearing

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Public questioning of CIA Director William E. Colby was abruptly canceled Thursday when Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi resigned as chairman of the House Select Intelligence Committee and Republicans boycotted the Colby hearing.

The hearing was canceled by a subcommittee whose chairman, Rep. James V. Stanton, D-Ohio, said outside the hearing room he knows the Central Intelligence Agency was involved in "successful assassination plots."

Stanton refused to say who was assassinated, how the CIA was involved or to give any other details.

But a committee member, Rep. Michael Harrington, D-Mass., said Stanton was probably quoting "in-house gossip" because the committee has not received such information from the CIA.

Stanton had said he had not expected Colby to testify on specific assassination plots at the hearing.

He said the purpose of the hearing had been to question Colby on the misdeeds

uncovered by the CIA in its own housecleaning investigation, ordered by former CIA Director James R. Schlesinger in 1973 in the midst of Watergate disclosures. Schlesinger is now Secretary of Defense.

Meanwhile, the White House released the text of two memoranda which President Ford sent Wednesday, one to Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi and the other to Levi, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger, Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon, and CIA Director William E. Colby.

In the latter memo, Ford said he had reviewed the Rockefeller Commission report on domestic activities of the CIA and "believe it established a sound basis for addressing structural and other possible weaknesses in the operation of the CIA and other intelligence bodies."

He asked each of those to whom he sent to memo to forward to him their comments on the report and the recommendations as soon as possible.

In the memo to Levi, Ford said Rockefeller advised him the commission wanted the Justice Department to examine all materials for any evidence of criminal offenses.

"Such materials include information relating to allegations that the CIA has been involved in plans to assassinate certain leaders of foreign countries," Ford said.

He asked Levi to review all materials as soon as possible and "take such actions as you deem warranted."

With Colby waiting before subcommittee members, television cameras and newsmen to testify, Stanton announced that Nedzi had resigned as chairman of the full committee and the hearing could not continue because of a boycott by Republicans.

Nedzi handed his resignation over to Speaker Carl Albert, saying committee Democrats had stripped him in a caucus of any real power to direct the committee.