

Albert Postpones Action On Nedzi's Resignation

STAV 6/13/73
United Press International

House Speaker Carl Albert has put on ice until Monday the issue of Rep. Lucien Nedzi's resignation as chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

Nedzi, in a move that immediately derailed the House investigation of the CIA, tried to quit yesterday. But Albert, with whom Nedzi filed his letter of resignation, quickly asked for and received the chairman's permission to defer the matter until Monday.

Nedzi's sudden move appeared to have been prompted by the charges of some Intelligence Committee members that he is soft on the CIA and incapable of overseeing impartially the Intelligence subcommittee's scheduled investigation of the agency.

THE FIRST PUBLIC subcommittee hearing was adjourned before it started yesterday because Republican panel members refused to attend it in the wake of Nedzi's declared intention to resign.

The last straw for Nedzi appeared to come Wednesday night when the full Intelligence Committee voted 6-1 to disapprove his attempt to name the five members of the CIA subcommittee — including himself as "ex officio" member but excluding several Democrats who have criticized him.

But Nedzi has been criticized for months by committee member Michael J. Harrington, D-Mass., and others, who contend that he has long neglected a duty to investigate CIA misdeeds.

The full Intelligence Committee will conduct a sweeping probe of all the other major intelligence agencies, but it set up a subcommittee chaired by Rep. James Stanton, D-Ohio, to handle CIA matters separately as a compromise designed to resolve

NEDZI TOLD reporters he sees nothing that would make him retract his decision to quit, but he left the door open to persuasion.

"I'm a public servant and I believe in doing what is in the public's interest," he said. "I'm ready to serve where I'm needed."

But he said the "situation" within his faction-ridden panel "has made it impossible for me to work."

After Republican panel members refused to attend the opening subcommittee hearing in order to stay clear of what one of them called "a Democratic problem," Chairman Stanton, adjourned the meeting and

apologized to Colby, who had waited 30 minutes in the glare of television lights to testify.

Like the Senate Intelligence Committee which has been going full steam, the House panel intends to carry out an intensive probe of all major U.S. intelligence agencies and to go beyond the Rockefeller commission report in checking charges the CIA plotted to assassinate foreign leaders.

Stanton said in a television interview yesterday that he knew of successful assassination plots carried out by the CIA. He declined to elaborate.

the controversy over Nedzi. Then came Wednesday's jurisdictional dispute.

An Albert aide said the speaker delayed further action because he feared there might be "a full blown fight" over the issue and wanted time to let tempers cool.

There is some strong pro-Nedzi sentiment in the House, which could vote to reject his resignation.