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Senate Probe Of CIA, FBI Appears Set

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A full-scale Senate investigation of alleged domestic spying and misconduct by the CIA, FBI and other U.S. intelligence agencies seemed assured yesterday, as the caucus of all Senate Democrats voted 45 to 7 to create a select investigating committee with broad power and a budget of \$750,000.

The new committee will be similar in scope and power to the Ervin committee, which investigated the Watergate scandal and other abuses during the Nixon administration.

The overwhelming margin was a victory for Democratic liberals and younger senators who feared that the CIA investigation wouldn't be vigorously pressed by old-line committees like Armed Services and Appropriations, which have exercised supervision over CIA up to now. As a result, several argued, the public wouldn't be satisfied that the alleged abuses, with their implicit threat of an encroaching police state, had been investigated adequately and corrective steps taken.

Armed Services Committee Chairman John C. Stennis (D-Miss.) and Appropriations Committee Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) both told the caucus they wouldn't serve as chairman, thus clearing the way for eventual appointment of a chairman without previous supervisory responsibility over CIA operations.

John O. Pastore (D-R.I.), author of the proposal to set up a select committee drawn from the Senate as a whole, without a requirement that Armed Services and Appropriations be represented, also declined to be considered for chairman.

The new committee will have a Democratic chairman and 7 to 11 members. Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Republican Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) are to work out the details and name the members, subject to Senate ratification.

Mansfield said he hopes all details can be ironed out by the end of this week. He gave no indication of who might become chairman, but several Democratic senators mentioned Frank Church (D-Idaho), Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.) and Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) as possibilities.

The caucus resolution calls for the new committee to report its findings and recommendations for corrective action by Sept. 1.

Creation of the committee was spurred by accusations that the CIA had violated its charter and conducted spying against American citizens on American soil, instead of restricting its operations to overseas, and that the FBI had dossiers on Mansfield, House Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) and other members of Congress.

Meanwhile, former CIA Director Richard Helms appeared again before President's commission on CIA do-

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domestic activities and told reporters afterwards that domestic surveillance initiated during his tenure was sought personally by two Presidents, Johnson and Nixon.

Asked about CIA surveillance of antiwar groups in 1967, Helms said the activity was initiated after President Johnson expressed his concern directly. "It was something he expressed to me," Helms said. "I don't know that there was any written directive."

Helms, now ambassador to Iran, said Johnson "expressed concern about the dissident organizations and their foreign connections and I was only interested in their foreign connections."

Helms, after testifying under oath yesterday in private before the eight-member commission chaired by Vice President Rockefeller, said he expects to return to his diplomatic post at the end of the week, but the commission may recall him later for further testimony.

Another former CIA director, John McCone, also appeared before the Rockefeller group yesterday. McCone, who was director from 1961 to 1965, told reporters he had no personal knowledge of any domestic spying during his tenure or later.

"You will note that of all the accusations that have been made, none was in the time-frame that I was director," McCone said.

Rockefeller told the press that his commission will meet again next Monday and begin taking testimony from CIA staff officials. "We've been given a broad picture," he said. "Now we want to go into details with staff."

The Vice President resisted attempts to draw any conclusions from him about the private testimony so far, but he did reject a reporter's query about "extensive illegal spying."

"I would not say that what you have just said would be the impression left so far," Rockefeller replied.

Much of the commission's questioning was handled by



Associated Press

The Rockefeller commission meets on the CIA's activities. From left, clockwise, John Connor, an unidentified steno-

grapher, Edgar Shannon, Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer, C. Douglas Dillon and Vice President Rockefeller.



Associated Press

McCone prepares to leave after testimony on CIA.

its directors, David Belin. He has been joined by another new staff member, New York attorney Sol Neil Corbin, who will serve as counsel, and Rockefeller is still recruiting other investigators. All of the commission's members except former California Gov. Ronald Reagan attended yesterday's meeting.

In the Senate, the resolution adopted by the Democratic Caucus directs the new investigating committee to probe, among other things, the extent of illegal CIA operations in the United States, FBI counterintelligence operations, the use of wiretapping, opening of mail and surreptitious entry by intelligence agencies, and the Huston Plan, a proposal in the Nixon administration to apply a coordinated intelligence agency capability against various civilians and groups.

Approval of the resolution by the closed-door caucus came after a spirited battle between Pastore and Stennis, who argued that his own committee should continue its supervisory jurisdiction over CIA and undertake a broad investigation.

Pastore, with strong backing from Church, Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) and several others, said many senators had already become "polarized" on the CIA issue, having too strong an identification with either criticism or defense of the agency.

"I don't want the extremes of both sides to participate," Pastore said. "Let's leave Pastore, Stennis, Proxmire and Abourezk" off, he argued. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) and James Abourezk (D-SD.) have been sharply critical of CIA.

Stennis, in thundering tones that rocked the room, insisted that his committee could and

would do a good job of getting to the facts, but the caucus rebuffed him—a rare defeat.

In the final vote, the seven opposing the Pastore resolution — which Mansfield strongly favored, having introduced a similar floor resolution with Charles Mc C. Mathias (R-Md.) last week—were Stennis, McClellan, James Eastland (D-Miss.), Herman E. Talmadge (D-Ga.), Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), Howard W. Cannon (D-Nev.) and Harry Flood Byrd (Ind.-Va.). (Byrd sits with the Democratic caucus, though he is officially designated as an independent.)

Although Stennis didn't say so openly, he was clearly angry and hurt that the caucus wanted someone else to head the new probe.

"I oppose the resolution for several reasons," he told reporters. "The committee will be largely a duplication of what the Armed Services Committee has now. This idea that all those who have been dealing with it are polarized, I don't think such charges are well founded."

He said revelations in the press had "impaired" the operations of CIA "to some degree" and said his own committee "will also continue its obligations," but backed away from saying that Armed Services will carry out a parallel investigation once the new panel is set up.

Mansfield said he didn't see any conflict between the forthcoming Senate investigation and the Rockefeller commission's probe. "There is a need for both," he asserted.

Cranston told reporters the investigation contemplated by the caucus will cover the CIA, FBI, Defense Intelligence Agency, the Army, Navy and Air Force intelligence agencies, the Air Force's National

Reconnaissance Office, the National Reconnaissance Office, the National Security Agency, the State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research, the Treasury and its intelligence functions such as the Secret Service's activities, and intelligence operations in the atomic energy field.

A recent book by John Marks and Victor Marchetti, "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence," estimated that these agencies have 153,350 employees and a budget of \$6.2 billion a year.

Cranston also told a television interview that he has heard unsubstantiated reports that the CIA has engaged in assassinations overseas of foreign nationals and its own agents. "They call it termination with extreme prejudice," he said.

In the caucus vote, Russell B. Long (D-La.) voted "present," saying he wants to be sure before he endorses a probe that the committee members can be depended on not to leak security information. Nine others of the 61-member caucus were absent.

Pastore, Cranston and others made clear, that, in Pastore's words, there is "no intention here to injure or destroy military intelligence or civilian intelligence," only to xpuunge abuses that threaten the rights and liberties of citizens.