

Senate Demos Vote to Probe CIA and FBI

Washington

A full-scale Senate investigation of domestic spying and possible misconduct by the CIA, FBI and other U.S. intelligence agencies seemed assured yesterday after the Democratic Caucus voted 45 to 7 to create a select committee with broad powers and a budget of \$750,000 to undertake it.

A chairman hasn't yet been named.

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

The overwhelming margin of approval was a victory for Democratic liberals and younger senators. They feared that if the CIA investigation were left with old-line committees like Armed Services and Appropriations, which have exercised complete supervision over CIA up to now, it might not be pressed.

As a result, several senators argued, the public wouldn't be satisfied that the alleged abuses had been investigated adequately and corrective steps taken.

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

John Pastore (Dem.-R.I.), author of the proposal to set up a select committee with members drawn from the whole Senate, also declined to be considered for chairman.

Approval of the resolution by the caucus came after a spirited battle between Pastore, who argued for creating a new committee that included some younger senators who hadn't previously taken a "partisan" stance on CIA activities, and Stennis, who argued that his own committee should continue its supervisory jurisdiction

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over CIA and undertake a broad investigation.

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

"I don't want the extremes of both sides to participate," Cranston said. "Let's leave Pastore, Stennis, Proxmire and Abourezk off," he argued. William Proxmire (Dem.-Wis.) and James Abourezk (Dem.-S.D.) have been sharply critical of the 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 he suffered one of the few major defeats of his Senate career and was rebuffed by the caucus.

In the final vote, the seven opposing the Pastore resolution were Stennis, McClellan, James Eastland (Dem.-Miss.), Herman Talmadge (Dem.-Ga.), Sam Nunn (Dem.-Ga.), Howard W. Cannon (Dem.-Nev.) and Harry F. Byrd Jr. (Ind.-Va.). (Byrd sits with the Democratic caucus, though he is officially designated as an Independent.)

In the caucus vote, Russell Long (Dem.-La.) voted "present," because, he explained, he wants to be sure before he endorses a probe that the committee members are persons who can be

to 11 members. Majority leader Mike Mansfield (Dem.-Mont.) and GOP leader Hugh Scott (Rep.-Pa.) are to work out the details and name the members, and the Senate will then give formal ratification to the new unit.

Mansfield said he hopes all details can be ironed out by the end of this week.

He gave no indication as to who might become chairman, but several Democratic Senators mentioned Frank Church (Dem.-Ida.), Philip A. Hart (Dem.-Mich.) and Birch Bayh (Dem.-Ind.) as possibilities.

The caucus resolution called for the new committee to report its findings and recommendations for corrective action by September 1 of this year.

Creation of the new committee was spurred by accusations that the CIA had violated its charter by spying against American citizens



UPI Telephoto

SEN. JOHN STENNIS LED OPPOSITION
He said his committee would do a good job

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depended on not to leak security information. Nine other members of the caucus were absent.

Although Stennis didn't say so openly, he was clearly angry and hurt by the caucus action. He made it obvious he read the message of the caucus as wanting someone else to head the new probe.

The new committee will have a Democratic chairman and will have seven of

on American soil, instead of restricting its operations to overseas, and that the FBI had compiled personal dossiers on members of Congress.

The resolution adopted by the Caucus directs the new committee to investigate, among other things, the extent—if any—of illegal CIA operations in the U.S.; FBI counter-intelligence 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 capacity against various civilians and organizations.