

SENATOR DECRIES FUROR OVER C.I.A.

Church Denies Committee Is
Out to Wreck Agencies

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21—The chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence said today that he was concerned by suggestions in news reports that his committee was out to wreck the Federal intelligence agencies.

In a statement, Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, said: "I have been surprised in recent days at the hysteria of those who are fearful that this committee is out to wreck these agencies. The committee is being prejudged in that respect by those who apparently hope to discredit it before it begins its work."

Though Mr. Church mentioned no specific reports or comments, he appeared to be referring to several columnists who have asserted recently that an unbridled exposure of the Central Intelligence Agency and other intelligence agencies could deeply wound the security of the United States.

Mr. Church said of his committee that "these critics will soon learn that this will be a judicious and responsible body."

Same Stand as Colby's

He thus joined with William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence, who yesterday deplored what he called an atmosphere of hysteria that appeared to pervade the nation.

Senator Church heads the newly constituted bipartisan committee that is charged with investigating allegations that the C.I.A. conducted unauthorized domestic intelligence operations in violation of its charter. It is also instructed to make a sweeping evaluation of Federal intelligence operations, including the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

In another statement issued earlier, Senator Church said that if the Congressional investigation established that charges against the C.I.A. had been exaggerated, it would help to restore public confidence in the agency's operations.

Meanwhile, Representative Robert N. Giaimo, Democrat of Connecticut, emerged from a closed House subcommittee briefing with Mr. Colby and told newsmen, "There have been violations of rights." He added, "Fortunately, nothing earth-shattering or significant has taken place, but it should serve as a warning to a free people to always be on their guard against any type of secret agencies."

He said he was encouraged by what appeared to be new directions at the C.I.A. under Mr. Colby and noted, for instance, that it was the first time Mr. Colby had briefed the entire 12-member Defense Appropriations Subcommittee on Classified Material.