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NYTimes MAY 14 1975

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1975

After 3 Months, House Committee Selects Lawyer to Head Intelligence Inquiry

By JOHN M. CREWDSON
Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, May 13—

The House Select Committee on Intelligence, in its first formal action since it was set up three months ago, named today A. Searl Field, a 30-year-old Connecticut lawyer, to head its investigation of Federal intelligence.

mer Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Today's public arguing between Mr. Harrington and Representative Robert N. Gai-who is Mr. Field's principal sponsor, was by all accounts an extension of the wrangling that has taken place in private over the parade of candidates for the committee's top administrative job.

Could End Delay

The 8-to-2 vote to appoint Mr. Field, a Republican, as the committee's staff director and chief counsel followed an occasionally heated public debate among the seven Democratic members over Mr. Field's youth and qualifications for the post.

The debate culminated in an unsuccessful attempt led by Representative Michael J. Harrington of Massachusetts, a liberal Democrat and long-standing critic of the Central Intelligence Agency, to replace Mr. Field's name with that of for-

ward said today that, despite the delay, he expected the select committee to have acquitted itself "in a responsive and responsible manner" by the time its inquiry concludes next January.

"We will do our duty fully and without evasion, and without concern about external carping and pressures," he said. "We will track down leads, and we will stay on track without yielding to the frivolous or to frolics and detours."

'Fair and Thorough'

Mr. Nedzi said he looked forward to "full cooperation" with the select committee in the Senate that is investigating intelligence-gathering activities, and said he expected to receive from Federal agencies all the materials so far provided to the Senate.

Mr. Nedzi, a Michigan Democrat who also heads a House Armed Services subcommittee charged with overseeing the Central Intelligence Agency, vote of approval, said he be-

lieved that the task before him could help to "restore the confidence, respect and support of a free nation for its legitimate intelligence and security functions."

His investigation, he asserted, would be "fair and thorough," but characterized by "a vigorous respect for all confidential matters."

During the debate that preceded his appointment, several committee members displayed some degree of sensitivity to criticism generated over the last 12 weeks by their continued inability to agree on a nominee for the all-important post.

Representative Robert McCloy of Illinois, the ranking Republican member, said he would not want to suggest that any delays that have occurred were not appropriate. But Mr. Harrington, with a tinge of disgust in his voice, said he had viewed the investi-

gation from its outset "with misgivings."

Mr. Harrington charged that the panel's choice of Mr. Field was aimed only at "avoiding the rising criticism" attending their inaction, and he and a fellow Democrat, Representative Ronald V. Dellums of California, appealed to their colleagues to accept Mr. Clark and "convey to the public that we were serious and we meant business."

Although they were joined by a third Democrat, Don Edwards of California, in their attempt to place Mr. Clark's name before the committee, the two stood alone when the final vote on Mr. Field was taken.

Mr. Harrington described Mr. Field, a graduate of Princeton who led his class at the Georgetown University Law School here, as "someone who meets the minimal standards" for the position of chief counsel and staff director.

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