

# Dispute Over Nedzi Puts Future of House

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WASHINGTON, June 17—The future of the House Select Committee on Intelligence Activities was cast into doubt today as Democratic leaders struggled to work out a compromise between Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, the committee chairman who does not want the job but cannot resign, and six Democrats on the panel who find his leadership unacceptable. Consideration of a resolution that would dissolve the five-month-old committee altogether was put off temporarily in the House Rules Committee following a request by Speaker Carl Albert, who reportedly was talking and meeting informally with key Congressmen, including Mr. Nedzi, in a last-minute effort to "reconstitute" the panel.

A number of alternatives short of abolition were being discussed off the floor today by proponents intent on preserving an intelligence investigation in the House while surmounting the animosity between Mr. Nedzi, whose emotional resignation of his chairmanship was rejected by the House yesterday, and insurgent Democrats who believe that his objectivity has been compromised.

The alternative solutions, which ranged from revamping the membership of the panel to merging it with the Senate Select Intelligence Committee, were overshadowed, however, by what several House aides described as a growing general disillusion with the internal squabbling that has inhibited the committee's investigation and led to the impasse between Mr. Nedzi and its six other Democrats.

## Doubt About Compromise

An aide to Mr. Nedzi, a Michigan Democrat, said today that he doubted whether any compromise would be acceptable to the chairman.

"I think it's a little late for that," he said, adding that Mr. Nedzi had "made his position clear" yesterday with his assertion on the House floor that to remain as chairman under present conditions would make him an accomplice of a charade."

One Democratic committee member said today he believed that the House's decision, by a lopsided vote of 290 to 64, to reject Mr. Nedzi's resignation had been not an accurate test of anticommunist sentiment in the House, but rather an affirmation of Mr. Nedzi's integrity, which the chairman had unnecessarily put on the line."

The committee member said that the task he and his Democratic colleagues on the panel

faced was to persuade the House Democratic Caucus to intervene with the Rules Committee to prevent the abolition of the committee's resolution, introduced yesterday by Representative B. F. Sisk, a California Democrat, from reaching the House floor. Influential members of the caucus are reportedly disturbed at the rejection of Mr. Nedzi by the select committee's Democratic membership, an uprising that they view as a threat to the orderly process of the House and, not incidentally, to their own power as a body to assign committee chairmen.

In an apparent attempt to dilute the caucus, representative Michael J. Harrington, one of the insurgents who is an outspoken critic of the C.I.A., let it be known privately today that he was prepared to resign from the select committee's Subcommittee on the C.I.A. if it would help keep the full panel intact.

That subcommittee was established by Mr. Nedzi last week as a conciliatory move, following news reports that, ahead of a separate standing House subcommittee that oversees the C.I.A., he had been

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## C.I.A. Inquiry in Doubt

made privy over a year ago to the agency's alleged involvement in assassination plots and domestic surveillance, but had kept the knowledge to himself.

Those topics are two of the foremost areas under investigation by the select committee in the Senate and formed the bulk of the recently completed inquiry by President Ford's Commission on C.I.A. Activities. Committee Democrats subsequently decided among themselves, however, that the select committee's C.I.A. subcommittee, headed by Representative

James V. Stanton, Democrat of Ohio, should be expanded to include all 10 committee members, thus effectively replacing Mr. Nedzi with Mr. Stanton as chairman in all matters concerning the C.I.A.

That was the point at which Mr. Nedzi rebelled, proclaiming that he had been stripped of all the trappings of his chairmanship except for "a gavel and a title," and decided to announce his resignation.

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