

Church and Levi Fail to Reach Pact on Secret Data

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

WASHINGTON, July 16—Senator Frank Church said today that he and Attorney General Edward H. Levi had been unable to reach a final agreement on providing classified Justice Department materials to investigators for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities.

Senator Church, the committee chairman, told reporters following a two-hour appearance before a closed session of the panel by Mr. Levi and Clarence N. Kelley, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that only an experimental "procedure" for access to such materials had been worked out.

Mr. Church, who did not sound particularly optimistic, insisted nevertheless that his committee was "determined to have all the information it needs" to complete its investigation of the Federal intelligence agencies.

If the experiment worked out today, which Mr. Church declined to describe, proved unsuccessful, the select committee would consult with Mr. Levi again on the matter, the Senator added.

Mr. Church accused the Justice Department last Thursday of "severely hampering" the panel's investigation of the F.B.I. by its refusal to provide certain kinds of information, including documents on wire-taps, counterintelligence efforts and the bureau's use of informants.

The following day, at Mr. Levi's direction, the department agreed to expand its response to the committee's requests for materials. But a committee source said today that Mr. Levi was still "stonewalling it" in declining to provide the panel with certain sensitive and confidential information.

In an interview last week, the Attorney General said it was his intention to cooperate with the select committee to the extent that he could without compromising the responsibilities of his office.

House Unit Reorganization

But he said he interpreted those responsibilities to include protecting the confidentiality of information in the F.B.I.'s files on individuals that was unverified or salacious or that had been given to the bureau in confidence.

In a related development, the House moved closer today to a reorganization of its paralyzed Select Committee on Intelli-

gence Activities when it rejected by a large margin a proposal that would have abolished the panel.

The proposal, defeated by a vote of 291 to 122, was offered by Representative James H. Quillen, Republican of Tennessee, a san amendment to the main resolution before the body, which would replace the embattled committee with a larger one retaining the same authority.

Mr. Quillen implored his colleague to abandon the investigation of the Federal intelligence agencies, which he said he considered potentially detrimental to those agencies and, considering the six-month deadline for completion of the panel's work, impractical.

"Let's abolish the committee and get down to the business of lowering grocery prices and gasoline prices," Mr. Quillen said at one point to scattered applause.

Permanent Panel Rejected

A second proposal, by Representative John B. Anderson, Republican of Illinois, that would have led instead to the establishment of a permanent, joint House-Senate committee to oversee the Central Intelligence Agency and other intelligence organizations, was defeated by a considerably smaller margin of 230 to 178.

Representative Richard Bolling, a Missouri Democrat, argued that it was the province of a select investigating committee to recommend the establishment of such a joint oversight body, and not that of the House as a whole, which he urged to act speedily on the pending resolution of which he is the sponsor.

There is at least one addi-

tional amendment, and possibly two, which will be put to a vote in the House before it can act on the Bolling proposal. But a decisive vote on the select committee's fate is expected this week, perhaps as early as tomorrow.

The dilemma that the Bolling resolution is designed to resolve was precipitated last month when Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, the Michigan Democrat who heads the select committee, became piqued at what he considered an attempt by committee Democrats to usurp his authority.

Mr. Nedzi offered his resignation as chairman to the House, which rejected it, and the committee's investigation has been at a virtual standstill ever since.

Several Representatives today questioned the necessity and propriety of reconstituting under new leadership an investigation that has not made much headway thus far and that, under Mr. Bolling's resolution, would have to complete its work by Jan. 31.

Some accused the committee's proponents of simply hoping to "save face" or of fearing charges of perpetrating a "cover-up" of official wrongdoing by the C.I.A. and other agencies. But the panel's defenders insisted it could still make a valuable contribution that did not parallel the far more advanced inquiry underway in the Senate.

The question of the Senate Committee's access to F.B.I.

materials took on greater significance today with the panel's decision, announced by Senator Church, to remain in Washington through next month's Congressional recess if necessary to complete its current inquiry into alleged attempts by the C.I.A. at political assassination.

Senator Church and several other committee members are known to be eager to begin a formal examination of other Federal intelligence agencies, particularly the F.B.I.

The panel expects to begin holding public hearings in September and would like to devote a considerable proportion of those sessions to the F.B.I.'s intelligence-gathering operations if its investigators have been able to lay sufficient groundwork.