

New Spy Panel Is Voted; Pike Heads House Group

By JOHN M. CREWDSON
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WASHINGTON, July 17 — Hoping to end the disputes that have stalled its investigation of the Federal intelligence agencies, the House of Representatives took the unusual step today of abolishing its Select Committee on Intelligence and replacing it with a new, larger panel with the same authority.

As had been expected, House Speaker Carl Albert did not reappoint to the new committee either Representative Lucien N. Nedzi of Michigan, the chairman of the old panel, or Representative Michael J. Harrington of Massachusetts. House members had been at odds over the fitness of the two Democrats to take part in the investigation.

Shortly after a resolution to reconstitute the select committee had been adopted by a voice vote, Mr. Albert filled the chairman's post with Representative Otis G. Pike, an eight-term, 53-year-old Democrat from Suffolk County, L.I., who is well regarded by his colleagues.

13 Persons on Panel

Under the resolution passed today, the membership of the intelligence committee is increased from 10 to 13. Eight of the 10 previous committee members were retained by Mr. Albert, and Mr. Pike, three other Democrats and one Republican were added.

The new Democratic members are Representatives Les Aspin of Wisconsin, a frequent critic of Defense Department spending and procurement policies; Dale Milford, a 49-year-old former television weatherman from Texas, and Philip H. Hayes, a freshman from Indiana.

The new Republican member is Representative James P. Johnson of Colorado.

Reached by telephone shortly after his appointment was announced, Mr. Pike said that he planned to put aside for the time being most of his duties as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee and to concentrate on setting the House's intelligence investigation in motion.

He said that he would meet with the other committee members as soon as possible, perhaps tomorrow, and work out a plan for a "selective" inquiry that would duplicate as little as possible the far more advanced investigation under way in the Senate.

Panel Changes Stand

In a related development, Senator John G. Tower of Texas, the Republican vice chairman of the State Select Committee on Intelligence, announced today that his panel had decided not to seek testimony from former President Richard M. Nixon on allegations that the Central Intelligence Agency had made attempts on the life of Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Senator Frank Church, the Idaho Democrat who heads the select committee, said last

week that the committee wanted to question Mr. Nixon who, while Vice President, served as the White House "action officer" for the C.I.A.-inspired invasion of Cuba's Bay of Pigs.

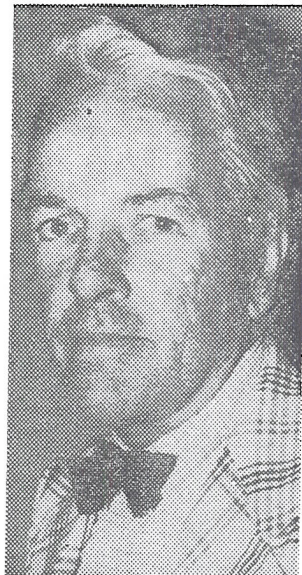
But Mr. Tower, who presided over a closed session of the Senate committee this morning, said afterward that "based on the evidence we have so far, we don't think he [Mr. Nixon] could shed any light on the entire range" of the C.I.A.'s operations in Cuba.

Before approving the resolution to reorganize the select committee, the House rejected several amendments offered by Republicans that would have weakened the committee's mandate, and another, sponsored by Democratic Representative John E. Moss of California, that was designed to allow Mr. Harrington to be on the new panel.

Vote Is Recisive

Mr. Nedzi, whose attempt last month to resign as chairman of the select committee was barred by the House, reportedly made it clear to Mr. Albert in advance of today's vote that he wanted no part of a revived inquiry.

But some observers thought that it might have been possible for Mr. Harrington to stay on if Mr. Moss's amendment, which would have permitted any of the original members to remain if they wished to, had not been defeated by the decisive margin of 274 to 119.



Associated Press

Representative Otis G. Pike