

Rep. Pike Angry as C.I.A. Bars Data

By JOHN M. CREWDSON
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WASHINGTON, Aug. 4—The chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence complained angrily today that the Central Intelligence Agency and other units of the executive branch were withholding information that his panel needed to advance its inquiry into the Federal intelligence community.

Representative Otis G. Pike, a Suffolk Democrat who is the chairman, interrupted an appearance before the panel today by William E. Colby, the Director of Central Intelligence, who declined to tell the Congressmen in public how much money is spent each year by the Federal intelligence agencies.

Mr. Colby was the third witness in three days to leave the committee's curiosity unsatisfied. James T. Lynn, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, who testified last Friday, also refused to disclose the key figures in public testimony, and Elmer B. Staats, the Controller General who preceded Mr. Lynn as a witness, said he did not know the answer.

In his testimony, Mr. Lynn repeatedly declined to answer questions about the financial aspects of the C.I.A.'s operations on the ground that he could not make such information available while reporters and spectators were present.

The select committee then voted to close Friday's hearings, but Mr. Pike said today that this had proved fruitless.

"We went into executive session," the chairman recounted, "and the result could only be described as acutely disappointing. We found first that the witness could only testify after the room had been swept to insure the absence of electronic listening devices.

Got 'Absolutely Nothing'

That was done, Mr. Pike said, but then the panel was told that even though the stenographers present to transcribe the hearings were cleared for top-secret information, "we could not get all the information we wanted to get. So we got absolutely nothing."

Mr. Colby assured Mr. Pike and the other members, however, that if the room was cleared he would be more open than Mr. Lynn had been, and the committee voted, 6 to 5, with Mr. Pike in the minority, to close the hearings.

Before that happened, Mr. Pike told the C.I.A. chief that the committee staff members had informed him that "they are not provided with all of the information that they seek," even though they were traveling to C.I.A. headquarters in Virginia in search of the



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William E. Colby, chief of intelligence, at House committee hearing.

information rather than asking the agency to send it to Capitol Hill.

Mr. Colby replied that there had been a problem in the early days of the panel's investigation but only "because I was not informed of the security arrangements" that the committee had instituted.

The director said he was sure that the difficulty had since been cleared up.

Mr. Pike paused for a moment before telling Mr. Colby that "as recently as the end of our morning session this morning, one of our staff members said to me that he is still being denied certain information at Langley," the Virginia suburb in which the C.I.A. has its headquarters.

Earlier today, Mr. Colby, who

was appearing in his capacity as head of the Federal intelligence community, which is composed of about a dozen agencies, delivered a prepared statement in which he defended his decision not to make public the Government's total annual intelligence budget.

Besides providing helpful clues to analysts from hostile intelligence services, Mr. Colby said that, once such a public disclosure was made, "the demands for details would probably grow" to such questions as "What does it include? Why did it go up? Why did it go down? Is it worth it?"

Mr. Colby said that he "would like to be able to tell the American people about our activities," as a means of putting into perspective "what we have had to say recently about the missteps or misdeeds in our past."

But he asserted that the C.I.A. had "lost intelligence opportunities through exposure already," and that it was his role "under the statute to prevent this, so I urge that our intelligence budgets be kept secret and be discussed by this committee only in executive session."

Mr. Pike then asked whether the Soviet Union knew how much money was spent each year by American intelligence agencies.

"I don't think they know precisely," Mr. Colby answered, but said that "they undoubtedly have a better perception of it than the average [American taxpayer]."