

SEChronicle
Committee Vote

SEP 30 1975

Move in House to Wrest CIA Secrets From Ford

Washington

The House Intelligence committee voted 10 to 3 yesterday to seek support from the full House on its demands for classified CIA information being withheld by the White House.

Committee Chairman Otis Pike (Rep-N.Y.) announced he would ask the House Rules Committee to rush the resolution to the House floor, saying that access to the information is essential if the panel is to continue investigating the American intelligence community.

After an open session in the morning given over to partisan bickering, the committee met privately and later approved the "resolution of necessity" offered by Representative Robert Giaimo (Dem-Conn.).

The resolution asks the House to compel CIA Director William Colby "to provide forthwith" all the material the committee is seeking. Pike has said that such action might lay the groundwork for contempt action against administration officials unless a compromise can be reached with the White House.

The committee rejected three attempts by Republican members

to soften the resolution. But in the final vote, Republicans Walter Casten of Wisconsin, and James Johnson of Colorado, threw their support to the Democratic majority.

Johnson, explaining his vote against the administration's position, said "it's the investigation I'm trying to preserve, not the confrontation" with the White House and the CIA.

Earlier, Republicans led by Representative McClory of Illinois urged the panel to go along with President Ford's proposed compromise under which certain material would be provided to the committee but many details withheld.

At the White House, press secretary Ron Nessen said President Ford believes "considerable progress has been made" and "the President is hopeful the matter will be resolved and he will go more than halfway to resolve it."

The stalemate arose after the committee made public some classified material dealing with the 1973 Mideast war, obtained from the administration under subpoena.

United Press