

# PIKE PANEL SEEKS HOUSE VOTE IN BID FOR SECRET FILES

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White House Offers Papers  
With Deletions—Inquiry

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—

The House Select Committee on Intelligence agreed today to seek a resolution from the full House of Representatives supporting its demand for unimpeded access to classified documents and other materials that the committee has subpoenaed from William E. Colby, the director of Central Intelligence.

The agreement to take a first step in enforcing its subpoena was reached, by a vote of 10 to 3, after an extended debate over whether to accept the terms for the release of the materials offered by the White House last weekend.

Representative Otis G. Pike, Democrat of Suffolk County, chairman of the committee, made clear today that if the House approved the resolution and the information sought was still not forthcoming, he would favor asking the house to find Mr. Colby in contempt of Congress.

Asked whether he or the committee has any intention of making any of the restrictive information public should the committee win the battle with the White House and gain access to the material, Mr. Pike replied, "Mercy, no."

## Deletions Proposed

According to a draft agreement proposed by the White House and made available today by the committee, the Ford Administration has agreed to supply the materials the committee seeks, but with deletions of the identities of secret agents, "sources," persons and organizations involved in sensitive operations and of "specific details" of some intelligence methods.

The draft contains assurances that the deletions will not be used by the Administration to conceal evidence of alleged impropriety or criminal activity by a Federal intelligence agency, but Mr. Pike said today that the proposal represented no "substantial progress" in resolving the impasse between the White House and his committee.

"The restrictions," he said, "would make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for this committee to function," and he added:

"I do think it is time that Congress took a stand. I think it is time the Congress said, 'We want these pieces of information.'"

The proposed restrictions

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would also cover information provided to the United States in confidence by foreign intelligence services. Although Mr. Pike did not say so, the restrictions would seem to limit the House panel's access to information about the cooperation of the C.I.A. and other agencies with such friendly services, their possible penetration of foreign governments and organizations, and their relationships with American multinational corporations, universities and the like.

The resolution that will be posed to the full House, introduced today by Representative Robert N. Giaimo, Democrat of Connecticut, terms noncompliance with the panel's subpoenas "a grave matter requiring appropriate enforcement," and calls upon Mr. Colby to respond in full, "forthwith."

Before the House can vote, however, the proposal must be cleared for floor action by the House Rules Committee. Mr. Pike said he would ask the Rules Committee to act "before the middle of this week."

No one was predicting today, in view of the previous acrimo-

nious disputes in the House over the select committee's creation and its former leadership, just how soon the vote would be.

Ron Nessen, the President's press secretary, said before the Pike committee voted that Mr. Ford had indicated a willingness during the discussions to "go more than halfway" in heading off the threatened confrontation.

Mr. Nessen added that the President believed that "considerable progress had been made," but the mood in the White House following the committee's action seemed to turn from optimism to disappointment. One official there termed Mr. Pike's stand a "childish" one.

## Second to Ford

The select committee has several subpoenas outstanding for materials from a number of Federal intelligence agencies, and aides have said that all but one of these have not yet been fully complied with.

But the committee chose to join the issue of enforcement over a single subpoena delivered on Sept. 12 to Mr. Colby, because in his capacity as Director of Central Intelligence and titular head of the intelligence

community, he is second only to President Ford in responsibility for controlling the materials in question.

A. Searle Field, the committee counsel, explained to the panel in open session this morning time status of the negotiations with the White House and what he called he need to seek the material withheld, which he said included an important "eyes only" cablegram sent on Oct. 28, 1967, from Ellsworth Sunker, then the American Ambassador to Vietnam, to Walt Whitman Rostow, President Johnson's national security adviser.

That subpoena was voted with others by the committee on Sept. 11 in an effort to gain materials that would assist its inquiry into the foresight with which American intelligence agencies have been able to predict a number of international crises in recent years, including the 1968 Tet offensive in Vietnam and last year's invasion of Cyprus by Turkey.

The following day, however, the committee voted to overrule representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency in making public a four-word phrase from one of the sub-

poenaed documents. Mr. Ford, saying that there was a threat to national security in that disclosure, ordered an end to the panel's access to classified materials and Administration witnesses until an arrangement on handling such information could be worked out.

The draft proposal released today contains a section dealing with that question, but Mr. Pike has agreed to abide by its conditions that the House panel not make classified materials public without the President's consent or a court order.

Although the panel's hearings on the caliber of the Federal intelligence community are going ahead as scheduled, it is clear that without crucial documentation and expert witnesses to interpret it, the inquiry will be far less productive than it might be.

The outcome depends largely on the extent to which the Ford Administration, which has been accused by some Democratic committee members of intensive "lobbying" within the Pike committee and the House leadership for approval of its proposal, carries its battle to the Rules Committee and the House membership.