

# INQUIRY IS VOTED FOR HARRINGTON

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House Panel Acts, 7-2, to  
Study Charges That He  
Discussed C.I.A. Data  
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WASHINGTON Oct. 21—The House Ethics Committee voted 7 to 2 today to investigate formally charges that Representative Michael J. Harrington violated House rules by discussing with unauthorized persons secret testimony on the Central Intelligence Agency's political activities in Chile.

If no inquiry is made, it would be the first time that the eight-year-old panel, which is officially known as the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, has formally investigated a complaint against a member of the House.

By approving an inquiry, which will begin with a public hearing Nov. 3, the committee's vote appeared to assure that whatever action it recommends will reach the full House for final action.

Committee members said the panel could recommend that no disciplinary action be taken against Mr. Harrington, a Massachusetts Democrat, or that he be censured or even expelled from the House.

The last disciplinary action by the House against one of its members was the exclusion of the late Representative Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Democrat of Manhattan, in 1967 for alleged misuse of funds and for being in contempt of court in New York.

## Could Stir Fight

The Harrington case could provoke a divisive fight within the intelligence operations already being investigated by House and Senate committees.

Mr. Harrington has acknowledged that he discussed with other members of Congress and a reporter for The Washington Post the substance of secret testimony on the C.I.A.'s efforts in 1973 to undermine the government of Salvador Allende Gossens, Chile's late President.

The testimony had been given by William E. Colby, the Director of Central Intelligence, to the House Armed Services Committee, and an account of it appeared in The New York Times in September, 1974.

Representative Harrington, summoned before an Armed Services subcommittee two weeks later, denied having been the source for The Times article but conceded he had sought to bring the C.I.A. involvement to light.

Representative Robin L. Beard Jr., Republican of Tennessee, who is a member of the Armed Services Committee, filed a complaint with the Ethics Committee charging that Mr. Harrington had violated Kouse rules.

Mr. Harrington countered by filing complaints against 17 members of the Armed Services Committee charging that they violated Kouse rules by voting last June 16 to deny him access to the panel's classified testimony. The Ethics Committee has not yet acted on these complaints.

Mr. Harrington told reporters today that he was disappointed but not surprised by the Ethics Committee's action to investigate Mr. Beard's complaint.

He said he hoped that the hearings would focus not on

the narrow of whether Kouse rules may have been violated but on the broader question of what he described as "the use of the C.I.A. and government secrecy in general to short-circuit the democratic process and cover up illegal activity."

He said his actions had been "responsible and proper under the circumstances," and added:

"The implication of the Beard complaint and those behind it is that the rules of the House and the classification process itself can prevent the reporting of a crime. I don't accept that. Neither do the American people."

## 3 on Other Panel

He also noted that three of the seven votes in the Ethics committee to investigate Mr. Beard's complaint had been cast by Representatives who were also members of the Armed Services Committee—Melvin Price, Democrat of Illinois, F. Edward Hebert, Democrat of Louisiana, and Floyd Srence, Republican of South Carolina.

The other four votes for the inquiry were cast by Representatives John J. Flynt Jr., Democrat of Georgia who is chairman of the committee; Olin E. Teagut, Democrat of Texas; James H. Quillen, Republican of Tennessee, and Edward Hutchinson, Republican of Michigan.