House Orders Probe Of Spy Report Leak

Washington

The House voted yesterday to order its Ethics Committee to investigate the leak of its secret Intelligence Committee report and to determine whether to take action against CBS correspondent Daniel Schorr for his role in its publication.

The chamber approved 269 to 115 a resolution ordering the probe and saying it appears the "alleged actions of the said Daniel Schorr may be in contempt of or a breach of the privileges of this house." The resolution suggests no specific action against the correspondent.

But Representative Samuel S. Stratton (Dem-N.Y.), who introduced the resolution, suggested Schorr's press card could be voided or that he could be cited for contempt of Congress. The resolution leaves any recommendation up to members of the Ethics Committee.

Democratic leader Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. opposed the investigation, saying the media should be allowed to handle their own affairs. Other members expressed opposition as well, including Bob Eckhardt, (Dem-Tex.), who declared: "I'm willing to join in an inquiry, but I'm not willing to join in an inquisition."

Schorr has acknowledged he is responsible for publication of the Intelligence committee report in two parts over the last two weeks by a New York City weekly newspaper, the Village Voice. The report is still classified as secret.

Much of what was in the report already had been reported by Schorr and others.

Associated Press