

Sen. Church CIA (6)

Attacks Ford Spy Reform

Washington

Senator Frank Church, chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, said yesterday that President Ford's plan to reform the U.S. intelligence establishment endangers citizens' rights and fails to guard against government abuses.

"Overall the President's proposal is clearly to give the CIA a bigger shield and a longer sword with which to stab about within as well as without the country," the Idaho Democrat said in his first public comment on the plan disclosed by Mr. Ford earlier this week.

Meantime, the Senate Government Operations Committee appeared to sidetrack a move to require the White House to give Congress advance notice of secret spying operations.

Church's intelligence committee had originated the prior-notification requirement, but Senator Abraham Ribicoff (Dem-Conn.), chairman of the government operations panel, said Church is prepared to accept language that would allow — but not require — advance notification.

Ribicoff's Government Operations Committee, which approved legislation Thursday to establish a permanent Senate intelligence oversight panel, deleted by voice vote yesterday the provision stating that no intelligence agency should undertake a covert operation "unless and until" the Senate "has been fully informed of the proposed activity."

Senator Charles Percy (Rep-Ill.) proposed a substitute provision that he said would allow, but not require, prior notification "if a good working relationship is developed between the new committee and the executive branch."

The White House has vigorously opposed any prior notification requirement, and some committee members said such legislation might be unconstitutional.

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