

CIA (D)

Schorr Suspended by CBS In Leak of House Report

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 23—CBS News formally relieved Daniel Schorr today of all duties as a Washington correspondent pending resolution of a Congressional investigation of his leak of a House committee's intelligence report to The Village Voice.

Mr. Schorr will continue on the CBS payroll and maintain an office in the network's Washington bureau, but is forbidden to cover news events as an employee of the network.

Richard S. Salant, president of CBS News, said in a statement issued in New York that Mr. Schorr was being relieved of duties in "view of the adversary situation in which" he is placed in pending government investigations. He refused to elaborate on the statement,

although Marcia Stein, a spokesman, said that the suspension would continue "until all litigation is out of the way."

Mr. Salant said in his statement that the network "will support Mr. Schorr by providing legal counsel insofar as investigations relating to his CBS News activities are concerned."

The statement added that CBS News would back Mr. Schorr "against attempts to require him to reveal the source through which he obtained the report."

"These aspects of the matter involve fundamental issues of press freedom," the statement said.

But Mr. Salant underscored the network's position that in

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making the report available to The Village Voice "Mr. Schorr acted as an individual."

Mr. Salant's statement, and one by Mr. Schorr, were agreed to today at a meeting in New York. Attending were Mr. Schorr, William J. Small, senior vice president for news of CBS News; Joseph A. Califano, Mr. Schorr's attorney, and lawyers for the network. Mr. Califano is a former counselor to President Johnson.

The scope of Mr. Schorr's legal problems may become known tomorrow morning when a committee of the House of Representatives meets in an effort to determine how to proceed with its investigation of the newsman. The House called for the investigation last Thursday by a vote of 269 to 115.

In the resolution, which was introduced by Representative Samuel S. Stratton, Democrat of upstate New York, it was specifically stated that Mr. Schorr "may be in contempt of" the House, or to have abused his privileges as an accredited correspondent there.

Representative John J. Flynt, Democrat of Georgia, is chairman of the group that will consider the issue—the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, usually referred to as the House Ethics Committee.

One of the tangential issues involved in the complicated case is whether Mr. Schorr sought to have CBS News broadcast the report, and, if such an offer was rejected, how widely Mr. Schorr sought to distribute the report elsewhere.

Book Deal Failed

Mr. Schorr has said that he provided the report, that of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, to The Village Voice, a New York Weekly, which published it in two instalments earlier this month after the House voted on Jan. 29 not to make it public.

Sources at CBS News said that the network was satisfied that Mr. Schorr had broadcast as much of the report as it had wanted. Mr. Schorr is known to have then approached a book publisher in an effort to have the report printed as a paperback. But the deal fell through, and he delivered the report to The Village Voice, rather than to other newspapers that had requested that he give it to them.

Mr. Schorr's statement, which was released earlier today in New York, said in part:

"Experience has quickly taught me that it is not possible to work as a reporter while personally involved in a controversy over reporters' rights, and I accept that reality.

"I do not seek the legal contests which may lie ahead, but I am confident that, as they unfold, it will become clear that what is involved beyond specific details of my action is the public's continued right to know in the face of a secrecy backlash."

Mr. Schorr, who has a reputation here as a tenacious and productive newsman, last appeared on a CBS broadcast on Feb. 18. Last week, CBS News placed him on general reporting duties after the controversy broke out.

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