

# Schorr Probe Fund Cut to \$150,000

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The budget for an ethics committee investigation into the leaking of the House intelligence committee report to CBS correspondent Daniel Schorr was slashed more than half yesterday by a House Administration subcommittee.

In addition to cutting the \$350,000 request to \$150,000, the subcommittee said that \$75, of the total had to be set aside to pay for legal counsel for those to be interrogated or subpoenaed in the investigation.

Ethics committee Chairman John Flynt (D-Ga.), clearly anxious to proceed, said he wanted a day or two to think over the effect of the reduction.

The ethics committee had requested \$35,000 to hire 10 investigators to try to ferret out the person or persons responsible for leaking the intelligence committee's re-

port on the CIA to Schorr, who then turned it over to The Village Voice, which printed it.

Flynt had said he might have to interview up to 400 people. Rep. Samuel L. Devine (R-Ohio), who offered the \$150,000 amendment, said, "I figure they pulled that original figure out of thin air. They couldn't justify that."

Yet Devine said he was "as surprised as anyone" when his amendment passed. He said that he was not seeking to kill the investigation, but that for a fiscal conservative the \$350,000 was just too much money.

"They come back for more if they need it and can justify it," he said.

It is rare for the House Administration Committee, which dispenses funds for committee investigations, to reduce requests for funds. Rep. Frank Thompson (D-N.J.), chairman of the accounts subcommittee, which took the action, said he also was surprised at the cut.

Thompson originally offered

an amendment setting aside \$25,000 of the \$350,000 to provide those interrogated or subpoenaed with counsel, at fees not more than \$35 an hour.

Thompson said he was trying to protect the rights of employees of the intelligence committee, such as clerks and secretaries, who might be interrogated and couldn't afford legal counsel. He admitted that paying for counsel for someone under investigation by a congressional committee was "unprecedented."

But Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.) said that if the ethics committee interrogated 400 people it would cost "a lot more than \$25,000" and offered an amendment raising it to \$75. The amendment carried.

Then Devine's \$15, amendment carried by voice vote without dissent.

The ethics committee staff has said Flynt wants to hire lawyers at \$75 an hour, which they argue is less than the going rate. C. B. Rogers, who has his own At-

lanta law firm, is reported to have agreed to join the staff as counsel, and David W. Bowers, a retired FBI agent, is lined up as chief

However, the investigation cannot start until the money is cleared by the House. The full House Administration Committee is expected to act on the funding resolution soon, and it will then be taken to the House floor.