

# Senate Panel Votes for Weaker Spy Monitors

## Washington

The Senate Rules Committee voted yesterday to give no lawmaking or budgetary authority to a proposed Senate committee that would monitor the Central Intelligence Agency and other intelligence agencies.

The action cleared the deck for a full-blown floor fight next month between members of the Senate's old guard, who approve of the action, and younger, more reform-minded senators, who want to keep tighter reins on the nation's intelligence apparatus.

The central finding of the Senate Intelligence Committee in its reports this week was that Congress had exercised in the past far too little control over the intelligence agencies.

The select committee, headed by Frank Church (Dem-Ida.), recommended the creation of a new Senate committee with broad power to regulate the work and expenditures of the intelligence community.

Dick Clark (Dem-Iowa), argued in the rules committee yesterday that the failure of the Senate to establish such a new panel would "in effect be to repudiate the Church committee."

The rules committee, however, voted 5 to 4 to set up a new Senate committee with power to do little more than study and investigate intelligence matters, essentially what the Church committee did for 15 months before making its final recommendations.

Under the rules committee's proposal, members of the new committee would all be drawn from the committees whose past direc-

tion of intelligence activities the Church committee found lacking. They would be appointed by the chairman and ranking Republicans on those four committees.

The four committees are appropriations, armed services, foreign relations and judiciary. The respective chairmen of these committees — John McClellan of Arkansas, John Stennis of Mississippi, John Sparkman of Alabama and James Eastland of Mississippi — are among the oldest and most conservative Democrats in the Senate.

In February, the Senate Government Operations Committee voted unanimously to create a strong new intelligence oversight committee like that proposed by the Church committee.

The effort in the rules committee to overturn the work of the government operations panel and strip all important powers from the new committee was led by Howard Cannon of Nevada and Robert Byrd of West Virginia.

Cannon argued that a strong overseeing committee "might seriously jeopardize the conduct of our intelligence activities."

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