

SENATORS ASKING TIGHTER C.I.A. REIN

**Weicker and Baker Call for
a Joint Unit to Oversee
Intelligence Activity**

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 19 — While President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger conferred today with nine Congressional leaders over United States intelligence practices, two Senators introduced a bill to reform and broaden legislative control of the intelligence community.

Controversy over the covert operations of the Central Intelligence Agency, specifically in Chile in 1973, apparently prompted the President and Mr. Kissinger to meet for breakfast with the four Senators and five members of the House of Representatives for 90 minutes in which, a White House spokesman said, they had a "full and frank discussion" of intelligence procedures.

"The discussion also dealt with executive and legislative responsibility for intelligence policy," said the spokesman, John W. Hushen, the acting White House press secretary.

At the same time, Senators Lowell P. Weicker Jr. and Howard H. Baker were presenting their bill to create a "Joint Congressional Oversight Committee" to keep watch on the intelligence community.

Congressional overseeing of intelligence operations now is the responsibility of two Senate and two House subcommittees of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees. The two Republican Senators sponsoring the bill said they believed that "there has been no effective oversight" of the intelligence community by Congress under the present system.

On the Senate floor, they swiftly gained 11 co-sponsors, almost all of them Democrats considered liberals. But skeptics, including some members of current committees dealing with overseeing, pointed out that over 100 similar proposals had failed in the past. They expressed doubt that the bill of Mr. Weicker, who is from Connecticut, and Mr. Baker, of Tennessee, would get any further.

Negative Effect Is Seen

A Congressional aide familiar with overseeing functions remarked that one unresolved problem was whether Congress would or should go beyond overseeing intelligence practices and actually participate alongside the executive branch in authorizing or rejecting specific operations.

Each is effectively canceled out, he said, "when the subcommittee on intelligence knows the intelligence but can't deal with the foreign-policy aspects, and the Foreign Relations Committee can deal with foreign policy but doesn't know the intelligence end of it."

At a news conference, neither Senator Weicker nor Senator Baker was very clear on this, though Mr. Weicker said that "we are not suggesting decision-making" by Congress on intelligence. "That is up to the executive," he added.

Their bill calls for appointment of a 14-member joint committee, chosen by the Congressional leadership, with membership periodically rotated.

In telephone interviews, several Congressmen on the present committees voiced opposition to the Weicker-Baker bill. Representative William G. Bray, Republican of Indiana, who is on the House Intelligence subcommittee, said his group had been "quite active" in recent months, particularly on questions related to security-classification of secrets and involvement of the C.I.A. in the Watergate affair.

"Naturally I am opposed," said Representative F. Edward Hebert, Louisiana Democrat and a member of the same committee. "As far as I am concerned the C.I.A. functions properly and our committee is totally informed."

In a brief speech this morning, Senator Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, said: "What is needed is a serious effort to bring Congress into a meaningful relationship with the intelligence community both as an observer and as a consumer."

The Harrington Disclosure

In practice, a Congressional aide said, legislative oversight has been maintained by the seven-member House Intelligence subcommittee of the five-member Senate Central Intelligence subcommittee, under Senator John C. Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi.

The sessions, often extremely informal, are usually initiated by the committee chairman, but are sometimes called at the suggestion of William E. Colby, the Director of the C.I.A. Usually no written reports are made.

But last April, when Representative Nedzi was conducting a secret hearing on the intelligence agency's operations in Chile, there was a written report that he allowed Representative Michael J. Harrington, Democrat of Massachusetts, to read. Mr. Harrington's office later made his summary of that report available to the press.

This is regarded as "a breach of House rules" and, a Congressional aide said, may make for difficulties for the Weicker-Baker bill because of sensitivity about leaked security information.