

INTELLIGENCE COST PUT AT \$4 BILLION

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Officials Tell of Funds in Various Hidden Items of Pentagon Spending Bill

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 18—The developing debate over the national intelligence community has forced disclosure for the first time of total appropriations for the "national intelligence program." This year's figure, knowledgeable officials said, is \$4 billion—hidden away in the \$90 billion Pentagon spending bill approved by the Senate today.

These officials said that it was covered by such specific budget titles as "other procurement, Air Force," "contingencies, defense," and "procurement, defense agencies."

Last September Representative Robert N. Giaimo, Democrat of Connecticut, made the first move toward forcing disclosure of the real size and nature of these items. Senator Alan Cranston, Democrat of California, pressed the issue again in a Senate floor speech last Friday.

The knowledgeable officials who today disclosed the overall intelligence total for the first time said they had done so in the hope of forcing closer Congressional scrutiny of vaguely worded multimillion dollar budget titles and to bring about an open debate on the secret intelligence budget.

\$2 Billion in Tactical Plan

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Details of the \$4 billion appropriation, for what is called the national intelligence program, are known only to a few dozen legislators. The appropriation does not include \$2 billion for what is referred to as tactical intelligence spending by the Army, Navy and Air Force.

It has long been known that the national intelligence program—estimated in the past as running as high as \$8 billion—has been mixed in with the Pentagon budget without identification, but the specific hiding places in that budget have never been disclosed authoritatively.

While the House of Representatives trimmed the program budget this year by about \$250 million, it could not be ascertained whether the program

ever reached \$8 billion or whether it has been reduced substantially in recent years.

The program, according to officials in Congress and the Administration, includes \$750 million for the Central Intelligence agency tucked inside a \$2.1 billion budget item identified only as "other procurement, Air Force."

Other Items Included

Other agencies included in this program and the funds designated are as follows:

¶The National Security Agency, a semi-autonomous communications and cryptological agency under the Pentagon's umbrella, budgeted for about \$1.2 billion.

¶The National Reconnaissance Office, another semi-autonomous unit under the Air Force that runs the satellite photography program, set to spend under \$2 billion.

¶The Defense Intelligence Agency, which pulls together intelligence for the armed services and the Secretary of Defense, scheduled to spend about \$100 million.

Since 1974, most Congressmen have been voting billions for intelligence each year, knowing only that they were approving military hardware described no more precisely than "electronic control equipment," "communications equipment" or "erection of structures and acquisition of land."

Now, however, some Congressional and Administration officials are so convinced that the intelligence budget—at least, in one over-all total—should be subject to a debate on national priorities, that they are providing this information to the press.

Others, including Representative Giaimo and Senator Cranston are using various legislative techniques to get these intelligence expenditures into the open without technically violating Congressional rules on secrecy.

Vote Needed for Disclosure

The general rule is that classified information can be made public only by vote of either the Senate or the House of Representatives. Certain committees, however, have officially disclosed classified material by a majority vote of their own members. Individual legislators who take this responsibility on themselves face censure.

The Administration has opposed any budget disclosures on the ground that other nations, then, would be more able to counteract American programs.

Those pressing for disclosure know that the sentiment is decidedly against them. In September, the House Appropriations Committee voted 30 to 19 not even to receive intelligence budget figures from its own subcommittee, and the whole House voted 267 to 147 not to make the budget public.