

Hill Panel Is Proposed For Surveillance Study

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Two senators proposed yesterday that Congress establish a Senate-House committee to review domestic surveillance activities of federal agencies.

Sens. Gaylor Nelson (D-Wis.) and Henry M. Jackson, (D-Wash.), said their bill is aimed at protecting citizens' constitutional rights of privacy against government snooping.

"The time has come when it is essential for Congress to exercise better control over government surveillance and record-keeping activities," they said in a statement.

"Government invasions of individual privacy—whether by electronic surveillance, increased data collection and access to personal papers and records or any other means—

goes to the heart of the individual freedoms that are so essential to our system of democratic self-government," they added.

They cited Army surveillance of political dissidents and FBI surveillance of 1970 Earth Day participants.

The proposed committee could recommend changes in the law and the structure of government agencies to assure individual rights of privacy.

The panel would be made up of majority and minority leaders of both houses as well as representatives from all congressional committees having jurisdiction over agencies involved in surveillance or the keeping of personal records, including taxes.