

NYTimes JAN 21 1975
**DEMOCRATS VOTE
WIDE C.I.A. STUDY
BY SENATE PANEL**

**Party Caucus, 45-7, Urges
Bipartisan Unit Like One
in Watergate Hearings**

A SETBACK FOR STENNIS

**Rockefeller Finds No Data
to Indicate Massive and
Illegal Domestic Spying**

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20—The Senate Democratic Caucus voted 45 to 7 today to set up a bipartisan select committee, similar to the one established after the Watergate break-in, to investigate all aspects of foreign and domestic operations of the Central Intelligence Agency and other Government intelligence units.

A favorable vote had been expected, but the overwhelming majority in favor of the new committee was viewed as a major setback for Senator John C. Stennis, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, whose traditional dominance of military matters in the Senate had gone unchallenged until this morning's caucus meeting.

The Senate Armed Services Committee, which he heads, had already begun hearings into allegations of domestic spying by the C.I.A.

"What happened today was a kind of revolution," said Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, who emerged as a key spokesman during a recent debate on the Senate's oversight of intelligence matters.

A Nine-Month Task

The Senate's Democrats specifically approved a resolution providing for the Senate leadership to name seven to 11 members to serve on the select, or special, committee, which will initially have a \$750,000 budget and nine months in which to complete its work.

In a related development, President Ford's "blue-ribbon" commission to investigate the

C.I.A.'s domestic activities heard its second day of testimony today and afterward its chairman, Vice President Rockefeller, said "the impression left so far" was that the C.I.A. had not conducted a massive and illegal domestic spying operation.

A number of Senators said after the three-hour Democratic Caucus that no restrictions had been placed on the make-up of the panel, although there had been general agreement that those chosen should have no biases in any direction on national security.

It was this issue that directly led to Senator Stennis's rebuff. He did not challenge the apparent desire of the Democratic Caucus to approve the select committee, Senate sources said, but instead argued that the committee should be composed of Senators now serving on the Armed Services, Appropriations or Foreign Relations Committees.

Mr. Stennis was reported to have made an impassioned plea to prevent what he said would

Continued on Page 38, Column 3

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

be the destruction of the C.I.A. stemming from an inquiry into alleged domestic spying. At times, his booming voice could be heard by newsmen waiting outside the caucus room.

But Senator Stennis received only a handful of votes, from some of the Democrats who serve on his Armed Services Committee and other conservative Southerners. The Mississippi Democrat hinted later to newsmen that he might oppose the special committee when it comes to the Senate floor for passage later this week.

Committee members will not be named until after that vote, Senate sources said.

Today's caucus result left many Senators and senior aides talking about "the end of an era."

"This is really the first time that John Stennis has gone to the mat and gotten decisively trounced," one caucus eyewitness said. He added that Mr. Stennis's defeat could have implications for the Senate on other matters normally dominated by Southern conservatives, such as the Pentagon's annual budget.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ford's "blue-ribbon" investigating commission heard testimony today from John A. McCone, who was director of Central Intelligence from 1961 to 1965, and J. Patrick Coyne, former executive secretary of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

A third witness was Richard Helms, the former C.I.A. director, who is now Ambassador

to Iran. Mr. Helms, who testified for the second time before the eight-member commission, later told newsmen that former Presidents Johnson and Nixon had both expressed concern to him about possible foreign connections with the antiwar movement.

President Johnson discussed the matter with him in 1967, Mr. Helms said, and Mr. Nixon brought up the same issue after his election. "It was something he [Mr. Nixon] expressed to me in person," Mr. Helms told newsmen. "I don't know if there was any written direction."

Helms Statement Recalled

In a statement made public last week, Mr. Helms suggested that the C.I.A. began its domestic operations in the late nineteen-sixties in response to Presidential requests.

After testifying in secret for more than two hours, Mr. McCone told newsmen that he knew of no domestic C.I.A. spying activities when he headed the agency.

In a 45-page statement released last week, William E. Colby, the present Director of Central Intelligence, told of two domestic wiretaps undertaken by the agency in 1963. But those two wiretaps, Mr. Colby added, were authorized in advance by Robert F. Kennedy, then the Attorney General.

Mr. Coyne, who began his intelligence work with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in

the late nineteen-forties, was said by an aide to Vice President Rockefeller, chairman of the Ford Commission, to have testified to provide background on the various intelligence agencies and functions.

"He just knows about it," the aide said. "He's been in the business a long time."

"We got a broad picture," the Vice President was quoted by The Associated Press as saying, "and now we want to start working on details."

Senate sources said after today's Democratic Caucus that key arguments in favor of a wide-ranging select committee had been made by Senators Church, John O. Pastore of Rhode Island, Stuart Symington of Missouri, Walter Huddleston of Kentucky and Alan Cranston of California.

One Senator termed Mr. Cranston's speech a particularly "blistering" attack on the C.I.A. for its alleged domestic activities.

'A Broad Spectrum'

Senator Pastore, who sponsored the resolution to set up the bipartisan intelligence panel, told newsmen that he wanted "a broad spectrum of membership that isn't polarized or sympathetic — one extreme or the other. What I want is something new, something fresh."

The Rhode Island Democrat also took issue with Mr. Stennis's argument that the special inquiry would jeopardize the C.I.A.'s ability to conduct its

intelligent-gathering operations. "The same argument [was] made with respect to Watergate," Mr. Pastore said, "that an investigation would destroy our Government. But it didn't. It reinforced our form of Government."

Senator Church said in a telephone interview that the caucus action "doesn't mean that the Senate is about to shuck the C.I.A. or any other intelligence operation."

"We're talking about a thorough investigation of the entire intelligence community as it works inside and outside the United States," he said. "This has never been undertaken before, and it couldn't have been but for a tidal shift in attitude toward those activities."

Along with the C.I.A. and its activities, the special committee will investigate the operations of the F.B.I.

The caucus also voted to give the committee responsibility to look into the following:

• The coordination—or lack of it—among intelligence agencies.

• The extent to which intelligence units are governed by secret orders from the executive branch.

• Any violation or suspected violation of Federal laws by any intelligence agency, including illegal wiretapping and the surreptitious monitoring of

mail.

• The details surrounding the development of the 1970 White House plan to involve all intelligence agencies in increased activities against antiwar groups and other dissidents.

The plan was known as the Huston plan after its author, Tom Charles Huston, a former White House aide.