

House Ready To Form New CIA Panel

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The way was cleared yesterday for creation of a House select committee like one just named by the Senate to make a broad investigation of alleged improper domestic surveillance by the Central Intelligence Agency and other federal intelligence agencies.

A House Democratic task force headed off a potential dispute over whether the investigation should be made by an existing committee, agreeing on a new committee on grounds that jurisdiction over CIA, FBI and other intelligence agencies is too fragmented among existing committees.

The caucus of all House Democrats had bucked the issue to its Steering and Policy Committee, which in turn handed it to a task force headed by Rep. Robert N. Giaimo (D-Conn.) which reached unanimous agreement. The Steering Committee, caucus and House are expected to approve the task force's draft resolution.

House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) gave his strong support to the select committee route, to avoid duplication of effort and to reduce the potential for news leaks.

Demand for investigation of first the CIA, then the FBI and all other intelligence agencies was set off last month by news reports that the CIA, whose spy work is limited by

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law to overseas, had been conducting domestic surveillance and that the FBI had assembled files on the personal lives of members of Congress.

Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi (D-Mich.), chairman of a House Armed Services subcommittee charged with oversight of the CIA, announced he would hold hearings on the CIA allegations. Rep. Michael J. Harrington (D-Mass.) protested that the investigation should not be conducted by current overseers who had done no overseeing.

It was Nedzi who offered the select committee proposal

at yesterday's meeting. Harrington, also a member of the task force, said he fully supported it.

Nedzi's resolution calls for a study of alleged improper activities, the nature and extent of overt and covert intelligence activities by more than a dozen intelligence agencies; their coordination, the extent of executive branch oversight and control of intelligence agencies, and the need for "improved or reorganized oversight" by Congress.

Ever since the CIA's creation in 1947, there have been cries in Congress for closer and more critical oversight of the agency, which conducts its operations beyond the knowl-

edge and control of more than a handful of congressmen who are faithful supporters of the defense establishment.

The resolution would create a 10-member committee, seven Democrats and three Republicans named by Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) in consultation with chairmen of the several committees having some jurisdiction over intelligence matters. These include committees on Armed Services, Appropriations, Foreign Affairs, Judiciary and Banking.

Nedzi's resolution directs the select committee to submit a report to the House by the end of January, 1976.

A member of the new Senate committee expressed con-

cern yesterday about apparently conflicting testimony regarding CIA domestic surveillance.

Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.), commented at a news conference on Washington Post reports that former CIA Director Richard M. Helms testified in 1973 that the agency had no authority for surveillance of civilians.

Schweiker recalled that an earlier CIA director, Allen Dulles, told investigators that many agency employees would lie to anyone except their boss. "When dealing with that kind of framework, that kind of mentality, we have a very serious problem," Schweiker said.