

House Establishes Intelligence Inquiry

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 19—The House set up a select committee today to investigate allegations of "illegal or improper" activities of Federal intelligence agencies in the United States and overseas.

Speaker Carl Albert appointed Representative Lucien Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan, as chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence. Mr. Nedzi had initially called for creation of the committee.

"We'll start work immediately with the selection of a staff and probably begin committee orientation hearings next week," Mr. Nedzi said after the vote.

The House committee would

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be the third governmental group to look into the intelligence activities of such agencies as the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

President Ford ordered the formation of a commission headed by Vice President Rockefeller while the Senate created a panel directed by Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, which is similar to that set up by the House today.

The House vote of 286 to 120 reflected the division of the two parties, with the Democrats generally backing the resolution creating the committee.

The resolution states in part that the select committee is authorized to inquire into the activities of the following:

- National Security Council,
- United States Intelligence Board, President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, Central Intelligence Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency.

Also, intelligence components of the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force, National Security Agency, Intelligence and Research Bureau of Investigation, Department of the Treasury and the Department of Justice, Energy and Research and Development Administration.

Scope of Investigation

The resolution goes on to say that the panel will investigate "any other instrumentalities of the United States Government engaged in or otherwise responsible for intelligence operations in the United States and abroad."

Representative John B. Anderson, Republican of Illinois, a severe critic of the resolution but who voted in favor of it, characterized its intent as "the greatest fishing expedition since Moby Dick."

Mr. Anderson succeeded in having two amendments added to the resolution, one limiting the panel's funds to \$750,000, the other prohibiting unauthorized disclosure of information gathered by the committee. Some staff members would also have to undergo security checks, and would be prohibited from selling books or articles about their work, or making speeches dealing with the committee's findings.

But Mr. Anderson failed in a move to give the Republicans five seats on the 10-member committee. Both he and Representative Barber B. Conable Jr. Republican of upstate New York, pleaded that putting seven Democrats on the committee was evidence of partisan politics and that the intent of the people was to have an impartial investigation.