

# A.C.L.U. Critical on Intelligence Panel

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WASHINGTON, May 2—The American Civil Liberties Union called today upon Representative Lucian N. Nedzi to affirm his intention to investigate the activities of American intelligence-gathering organizations or to resign the chairmanship of a House select committee set up for that purpose.

In a letter to the Michigan Democrat and House Speaker Carl Albert, two A.C.L.U. officials pointed out that 71 days had passed since the House established the panel that Mr. Nedzi heads and that no chief counsel, staff director or staff had been appointed.

The officials, Aryan Neier, the A.C.L.U.'s executive direc-

tor, and Charles Morgan Jr., who heads its national office here, asserted that Mr. Nedzi's "failure to staff the committee raises grave doubts as to the ability of the House of Representatives to oversee and investigate the Central Intelligence Agency."

A Senate select committee set up three weeks earlier for the same purpose, has long since retained officials and staff investigators and is interviewing prospective witnesses for the public hearings it plans to begin in June.

Mr. Nedzi, who also heads a separate House subcommittee that acts as a "watchdog" for the C.I.A., has reportedly been unable to obtain a consensus among the Democratic and Republican members of his panel

on a candidate for staff director.

Mr. Nedzi, who has not spoken with the press since he was named to the chairmanship, is nonetheless known to believe that the director's post must be filled before the staff

selection process can begin. In their letter, Mr. Neier and Mr. Morgan asked that Mr. Nedzi advise them "and the public generally of the plans, if any, you have to aggressively undertake the duties of your chairmanship."

"If you have no such plans or decline to reveal them," the letter concluded, "we suggest you resign your chairmanship to allow the appointment of a House member willing to investigate the C.I.A."