

Demo Revolt on CIA Oversight Unit

Washington

A majority of the Democratic members of the House Select Committee on Intelligence yesterday moved to oust the chairman, Representative Lucien Nedzi, on grounds that his alleged prior knowledge of Central Intelligence Agency involvement in assassination plans and violations of domestic law has impaired his ability to conduct an impartial investigation.

In a move almost unprecedented in the House of Representatives, a group of committee members met with Speaker Carl Albert and told him they wanted Nedzi to resign or be removed. Nedzi was unavailable for comment after the evening meeting, but earlier he told newsmen he had no plans to step down as chairman.

The New York Times carried a story in its Thursday editions quoting authoritative sources that Nedzi' in his role as chairman of the House oversight committee, had been briefed more than a year ago on CIA involvement in assassination plots and illegal acts of domestic surveillance.

A crowd of reporters asked Nedzi before the 3 p.m. meeting of the select committee whether he had been briefed on these matters. He declined to comment on specific details as he had when he was questioned by the Times on Wednesday.

He began the meeting with a discussion of committee security rules. Shortly before, senior ranking Democrat Rober Giamo of Connecticut and James Stanton (Dem-Ohio), left the committee room for a hurried discussion in an anteroom.

Stanton returned and asked the committee to go into executive session to take up another matter. The meeting then went behind closed doors until 5:10 p.m. The committee members left the room and hurried to the House floor without talking to reporters. Only Nedzi responded to questions, assuring newsmen he would not resign.

A second meeting of the Democratic members of the committee was begun with Albert in the speaker's capitol office at 6:10 p.m. and lasted until 7:25 p.m.

When the members emerged, Stanton told reporters that a "majority of the Democrats had requested Mr. Nedzi to step down." Albert confirmed that "several members wanted Nedzi out" and said that a decision had been put off until Monday so that members could reflect on the situation "in a restful and sober atmosphere." *9 June*

Stanton said that the decision would be made in a

committee meeting on Monday. He said he believed Nedzi should leave the chairmanship because "his effectiveness had been impaired when he took no effective oversight responsibilities" after learning of illegal acts by the CIA.

Stanton said that if Nedzi did not resign after the Monday vote, "it's a matter for the House floor." Nedzi was appointed to the select committee chairmanship by Albert under a House resolution. If he declined to resign, a vote of the House would be required to remove him, several Congressional sources said.

New York Times