

Head of House Inquiry Into C.I.A.

James Vincent Stanton

By LINDA CHARLTON
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WASHINGTON, June 11 — The biographical sketch of Representative James V. Stanton produced by his office begins with a flat assertion that Mr. Stanton, just named to head the House subcommittee investigating the Central Intelligence Agency, "has outflanked the seniority system . . . to reach the top in less than three terms."

The sketch was written last month, before the 43-year-old Ohio Democrat had battled his way to the subcommittee chairmanship. But to both critics and admirers it seems a reflection of the politically shrewd self-confidence—which some call self-importance or even arrogance—that has been a hallmark of his career.

He began when he was 27, winning election to the Cleveland City Council from a traditionally Republican ward; by 1964 he was powerful enough to become president of the Council. By 1970, he was able to defeat a veteran incumbent Democrat, Representative Michael A. Feighan, for the nomination from Cleveland's 20th district, which has sent him back to Congress twice since then.

One of his rare defeats came in 1968, when he made his first bid for Congress, but lost to former Representative William E. Minshall. But that was the exception



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"Gutty and gritty"

for the man whom one politically knowledgeable Clevelander describes as "about as gutty and gritty a politician as I know."

James Vincent Stanton was born February 27, 1932, in the heavily Irish, blue-collar West Side of Cleveland. His father, Martin, was a fireman like his father before him; his mother, Loretta, died when Mr. Stanton, the youngest of their five children was eight years old.

He went to Roman Catholic parochial schools and the University of Dayton, where he majored in English and received his bachelor's degree in 1958. He went to Cleveland-Marshall law

school at night while on the City Council.

He became a partner in the law firm of Kraus & Stanton, an affiliation he retains despite some criticism, maintaining that there is no conflict of interest.

In Congress, Mr. Stanton quickly became known as an energetic and aggressive freshman, hard-working and at ease with his House colleagues. He has been involved, legislatively, with campaign financing reform, mass transit, and crime control.

In recent months, as the winds of change began to stir on Capitol Hill, Mr. Stanton has been on the winning side of several in-House battles, including the ousting of Representative Wayne L. Hays of Ohio against attempts to oust him from the chairmanship of the House Administration Committee. Mr. Stanton has cultivated Mr. Hays, a man many in the House find difficult.

"When he gets hold of something, he'll go," says a Cleveland politician. "He's a very good politician, very tenacious, a pretty fast mover who does his homework and knows what he's doing."

Mr. Stanton's own description of himself is this: "I think I'm, you know, and an average individual who is concerned about his country and where its going." And he added, "I'm in a profession I like."