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Harrington Rebuked for Leaks on CIA

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In a close vote marked by bitter debate, the House Armed Services Committee rebuked Rep. Michael Harrington (D-Mass.) yesterday for leaking classified information about Central Intelligence Agency operations in Chile.

Now a member of the House intelligence committee investigating the CIA, Harrington said he had no regrets over what he did. He said he welcomed the Armed Services Committee action as an opportunity to force a showdown over "the real issue—secrecy in government."

"It appears that Congress does not control the CIA, but that the CIA controls Congress," Harrington declared in a statement. "It is easy to see how and through whom."

The Armed Services Committee voted 15 to 13 to deny Harrington access to its classified files pending a

formal ruling by the House Ethics Committee.

House rules give all members the right to inspect any committee's files, but the Armed Services Committee majority maintained that some sanctions ought to be imposed against anyone who makes classified material public.

Rep. Richard Ichord (D-Mo.) said Harrington had "indisputably violated" another House rule forbidding the release or use of evidence received in closed session without the consent of the full committee.

Harrington's defenders said the rule Ichord cited has always been toothless until now and carries no enforcement provisions. Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.) called the attempt to penalize Harrington "petty . . . ludicrous and tragic" and an unwarranted "prior restraint."

At one point while Dellums was
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REP. MICHAEL HARRINGTON
... says he has no regrets

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speaking, Rep. Robin L. Beard (R-Tenn.) exclaimed in a voice clearly heard at the press table that Dellums' remarks were "a bunch of . . ." and said he was considering introducing a resolution to censure Harrington on the floor. Dellums later suggested that he and Beard might best settle their differences outside the hearing room, but nothing came of the offer.

Acting Committee Chairman F. Edward Hebert (D-La.) said the meeting was called to erase "any question" over a similar decision reached last week at a secret session that only 13 members—less than a quorum of the 40-member committee—attended.

Harrington told reporters later he considered it a moral victory to get so close a vote out of "this crowd."

He maintained that blind insistence on government secrecy was what enabled the CIA to interfere in Chile's internal affairs and help bring down the government of the late Salvador Allende to begin with.

The vote against Harrington was finally recorded as 16 to 13 when Rep. G. William Whitehurst (R-Va.), who arrived after it was taken, added his tally to the majority.

According to heretofore secret transcripts released at yesterday's meeting, Harrington inspected secret CIA testimony on Chilean operations in June of 1974 and followed up with letters to the chairmen of the House and Senate foreign affairs commit-

tees in hopes of securing public hearings.

Testifying before the Armed Services Subcommittee on Intelligence headed by Rep. Lucien Nedzi (D-Mich.) last Sept. 25, Harrington acknowledged briefing several members of his own staff, a Senate aid to Frank Church (D-Idaho), and Washington Post staff writer Laurence Stern over the summer. When The New York Times published a story based on the CIA's Chilean operations from some source other than himself, Harrington said, he told Stern not to feel bound by any confidences.

Harrington said he had also asked Nedzi at that same secret hearing what a congressional overseer's duty was "when you know that Congress and the public are being lied to."

The Massachusetts Democrat said he has since made repeated requests to Nedzi's subcommittee for information regarding other CIA operations, but all have been ignored.

Yesterday's acrimonious hearing was marked by talk of "treason" on the one hand and futile efforts on the other to hear Harrington out before a vote was taken.

Hebert said Harrington had already had his chance last September and would get another before the Ethics Committee, on which Hebert and four other members of the Armed Services Committee also sit. Rep. Melvin Price (D-Ill.) is chairman of both committees.

Rep. Charles H. Wilson (D-Calif.) protested that the Ethics Committee's

handling of the dispute promised to be "a cut and dried operation" because three of its members had already voted against Harrington.

Hebert demanded to know whether Wilson was casting aspersions on the integrity of the members of the Ethics Committee.

"Absolutely not," Wilson responded in a half-innocent, half-injured tone.

Rep. Larry McDonald (D-Ga.) used the word "treason," and called Harrington's conduct "a potential course of giving aid and comfort to the enemy."

Teddy Roosevelt, McDonald declared, once defined patriotism as "stating the truth except where to do so would give aid and comfort to the enemy."

In a sarcastic reply, Charles Wilson asked McDonald: "Will you tell me who the enemy is, and will you also tell the Secretary of State?"

Harrington's supporters, including several Southern Democrats such as G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery (Miss.) and Mendel J. Davis (S.C.), questioned the legality of penalizing Harrington in the 94th Congress for something he did in the 93d Congress. The committee majority referred that issue to the Ethics Committee.

Meanwhile, the committee decided, Harrington will be "denied access to any committee files or classified information maintained therein because of his previous refusal to honor House and committee rules regarding material received by the committee in executive session."