

CIA Prober Pike Gets Wild Mail

Washington

The mail arriving at Representative Otis Pike's office since he became chairman of a House committee investigating U.S. spy agencies has ranged from "lavish praise" to suggestions he sample some of the CIA's famous poison supply.

There also was one inquiry, which he made sure to answer, about his narrow bow tie.

The 54-year-old Democrat from Long Island, N.Y., has brought a refreshing sense of humor to one of the most sensitive and somber jobs created in the 94th congress — ferreting out wrongdoing by the nation's sacrosanct intelligence agencies.

His name has appeared almost daily in the newspapers, and his face is seen often on newscasts and interview shows, since he took on the added duty of chairing the House Select Committee on Intelligence in July.

As a result, the eight-term congressman said, his mail "has roughly quadrupled." It ranges "from the wildest kooks to the most thoughtful Americans, from the wildest hate-mail I have ever seen to the most lavish praise. . ."

Pike made the assessment in his monthly report to constituents — a one-page message he writes himself without having an aide do it.

United Press