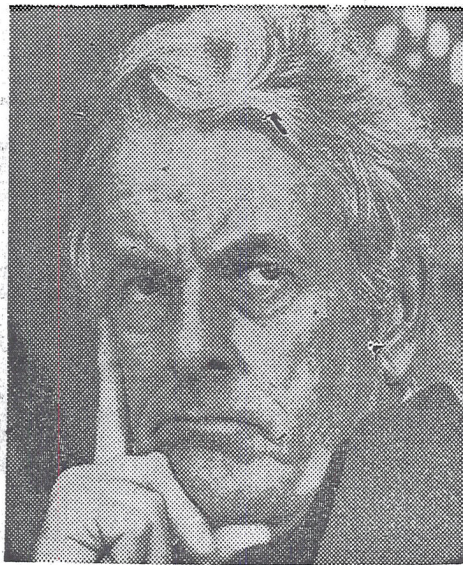


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The New York Times/George James

William E. Colby testifying at House Intelligence Committee hearing conducted by Otis G. Pike, right, who he said "frightened people" about possible enemy attack.

## Senate Intelligence Unit Rejects Nixon's Conditions for Testimony

NYTimes

DEC 13 1975

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 (AP)

—The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence decided today to reject former President Richard M. Nixon's offer to testify before the committee on the ground that he imposed too many conditions.

The committee found those conditions unacceptable and turned [the offer] down," Senator Frank Church, the chairman of the committee, said.

The Idaho Democrat said the proposal submitted by Mr. Nixon's lawyers specified that he not testify under oath, that he be interviewed only by the ranking members of the committee and that he reserve the right to assert executive privilege.

"He would be in effective control," Mr. Church said.

The Senator added that the committee had rejected the offer without dissent, although its vice chairman, Senator John G. Tower, Republican of Texas, told reporters that he found the offer acceptable.

### Presidential Move

Senator Church, who filed papers today to form a committee that will explore his chances as a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, said the Senate committee had not concluded its public hearings.

Earlier this year, Mr. Church said he would not let Presidential politics interfere with his work as chairman. Today, he said he was prepared to resign his chairmanship if he decided to run for the Presidency.

The Senator said committee lawyers were continuing negotiations with Mr. Nixon's attorneys, but that there appeared to be little chance that the former President would ever appear before the committee.

Senator Church rejected the possibility of subpoenaing Mr. Nixon, saying it would result in a time-consuming legal battle.

The committee will concentrate on drafting a final report as well as legislative recommendations for overhauling the intelligence community, Mr. Church said.

### Use of Clergymen

Meanwhile, a White House official said in a letter made public today that President Ford favored continued contacts by the Central Intelligence Agency with foreign clergymen and American missionaries abroad.

"The President does not feel it would be wise at present to prohibit the C.I.A. from having any connection with the clergy," Philip W. Buchen, the White House counsel, said in a letter to Senator Mark Hatfield, Republican of Oregon.

In releasing the Buchen letter, Senator Hatfield contended that the use of clergymen by intelligence agents dishonored America and should be stopped.

Such C.I.A. activity "tarnishes the image of the United States in foreign countries, prostitutes the church and violate the First Amendment [providing for] separation of church and state," Mr. Hatfield said in a speech prepared for delivery in the Senate.

### Exchange of Letters

The Senator made public an exchange of correspondence involving himself, Mr. William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence, Mr. Buchen, stating the President's position, told Mr. Hatfield in a letter dated Nov. 5:

"Clergymen throughout the world are often valuable sources of intelligence and many clergymen, motivated solely by patriotism, voluntarily and willingly aid the Government in providing information of intelligence value."

In a letter to Mr. Colby, Senator Hatfield said he believed that a few C.I.A. contacts with clergymen overseas tended to taint all such activities and jeopardize the work of missionaries.

Mr. Colby disagreed, saying: "In many countries of the world representatives of the clergy, foreign and local, play a significant role and can be of assistance to the United States through the C.I.A. with no re-

contacts between the C.I.A. and missionaries.

The Senator said the ban would be similar to one now in effect for Peace Corps volunteers and Fulbright scholars overseas.

flection upon their integrity nor their mission."

He contended that any "taint" stemmed more from sensational publicity about the C.I.A. than from the nature of the contacts that the agency had with clergymen.

Senator Hatfield, a religious activist who has long been associated with church groups, is introducing legislation to ban

"I can tell you right here and now there is not going to be one in the near future," Mr. Colby testified before Mr. Pike's committee.