

New Attack on U.S. Spy Policy

Washington

The United States continues to conduct covert operations abroad under a general policy that might prove harmful to the nation in the future, a California congressman who has received intelligence briefings said yesterday.

"It has been going on for some years and I question very seriously whether at some future time it won't substantially work against our interests," said Democrat Representative Leo J. Ryan.

Ryan refused to disclose the general policy, saying only that it does not involve U.S. support of anti-Communist political candidates abroad or the reported Central

Intelligence Agency use of some journalists and clergymen in foreign countries.

Some members of the House oversight committee, of which Ryan is a member, have stated recently that they have been briefed only on three intelligence operations. These involved U.S. aid for Angola, Italian elections and Portuguese political parties.

Ryan said that the general policy has not been publicly disclosed and that he learned of it only after checking out a passing reference made at a briefing.

Congressional committees have been told of two past covert opera-

tions in addition to ones involving Angola and Italy, Ryan said.

Ryan called the news conference to emphatically deny that he was the source of the recent disclosure of the operation in Italy that involved distributing \$6 million to Italian politicians.

Ryan accused the White House and CIA Director William E. Colby of trying to use that disclosure to cut off information to Congress on grounds Congress can't keep a secret.

The congressman suggested that the CIA, the White House or Italy could have been the source of the leak.

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