

Intelligence Probers Edit Their Report

Washington

The House intelligence committee approved its final report yesterday after cutting out some secrets that President Ford's advisers said might endanger agents and embarrass the nation diplomatically.

Chairman Otis Pike (Dem.-N.Y.) said the committee also chopped out what "were considered unduly critical" comments about Ford administration officials. Pike indicated their targets included Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

But the committee's senior Republican, Robert McClory of Illinois, said he might demand an extraordinary secret session of the 435-member House to delete even more secret information.

Pike said the panel didn't strike all secrets Mr. Ford and intelligence agencies wanted it to. "There's no way we're going to file this report and satisfy the executive," Pike said. "The executive's original request was that we strike out half of the entire report."

The committee approved the final report on its investigation by a 9-to-4 vote, but Pike said it will not be published until early next month.

Pike said staff negotiations and then votes by committee members knocked out information that, however, remotely, might expose individuals or embarrass the United States in diplomatic relations.

He said the committee also revised sentences "considered unduly critical of members of the executive branch."

Asked whether that meant the committee softened criticism of Kissinger, Pike said the report would leave no doubt the committee was critical of some members of the Ford administration.

Pike said the committee took out "a little over half" of the information intelligence officials specifically objected to.

But the Central Intelligence Agency director, William Colby, accused the committee of sidestepping an agreement under which Mr. Ford was to get the final word on what secrets could be released.

The committee voted 8 to 4 this week that, in effect, the agreement does not apply to the committee's final official report.

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