

# House Gives the President Final Say on Spying Report

## Pike Calls It A 'Coverup'

Washington

In a precedent-setting victory for President Ford, the House last night blocked its intelligence committee from disclosing secrets without the President's approval.

The directive was approved 246 to 124 over objections of the committee's majority that the directive would let Mr. Ford and the intelligence agencies censor the committee's final report to the House.

After the vote, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Otis G. Pike (Dem-N.Y.) accused Mr. Ford and his advisers of winning "a coverup in which I think the Congress is regretfully participating."

"I think they have managed to block the report," Pike said.

But supporters of the secrecy proposal, led by the intelligence panel's ranking Republican member, Representative Robert McClory of Illinois, said public disclosure would violate an agreement with the President.

"What agency do you think will provide us information if it thinks we cannot be trusted?" McClory said in floor debate before the vote was taken. "And that's the issue before us today: whether we in the House can be trusted."

Mr. Ford later issued a statement expressing pleasure at the vote.

"This action indicates that a large majority of House members shares my concern that our legitimate classified national security information be denied to our enemies and potential enemies," he added. "Today's vote shows the House members recognize that the American people want a strong and effective foreign intelligence capability."

Pike said he personally will vote to simply drop the entire House intelligence investigation and issue no report at all, although he said he does not know what the full committee might decide to do.

"I personally have no desire whatever to participate in the writing of a report on the CIA that is censored by the CIA," Pike said.

But copies of the committee's draft report have been distributed to federal agencies for comment and Representative Bella Abzug (Dem-N.Y.), immediately announced she has demanded public release of the report under the Freedom of Information Act.

The secrecy directive was technically an amendment to a proce-

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dural resolution setting times for filing the report with the full House. The resolution was approved by voice vote.

Pike and the committee's majority contended there was no agreement with Mr. Ford to keep secret information out of the report.

"The issue before you today is to decide if despicable, detestable acts should be reported," said Representative James P. Johnson, (Rep-Colo.). "Your choice today is whether to continue hiding shameful conduct."

The full House vote on the running secrecy fight between Mr. Ford and the intelligence commit-

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tee was pressed by a resolution approved 9 to 7 by the House Rules Committee on Wednesday night.

The secret information, most of it already publicly disclosed through news leaks, includes details on operations including U.S. submarine spying on Soviet missile firings and CIA covert aid to Angola and in the past to Italian political parties and Kurdish rebels.

Referring to the publication of many details from the report in the press, Representative Wayne Hays (Dem-Ohio) said during the debate; "Reading the report may be the biggest non-event since Brigitte Bardot, after four husbands and many lovers, announced she was not a virgin."

Associated Press