

A Debate Over ^{CIA(?)} SF Chronicle CIA Media Pals

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Chairman Otis Pike of the House Select Committee on Intelligence said yesterday he opposes publishing the names of reporters who collaborated with the CIA because it would serve "no useful purpose."

Pike (Dem-N.Y.) spoke to reporters after the CIA acknowledged that its new director, George Bush, discussed the issue last week with executives of the New York Times and CBS.

The Washington Post quoted informed sources as saying Bush gained support from most of the Times and CBS officials for his proposal not to make public the names of reporters who rated with U.S. intelligence agencies.

The CIA spokesman declined to give any details of the meeting.

But spokesmen for the Times and CBS took issue with the Post report. The Times, in a story yesterday, said: "News executives of both the Times and CBS denied the Post report, saying that they supported full disclosure of the names of such reporters and the organizations for which they had worked while cooperating with the CIA."

Richard Salant, president of CBS News, issued a statement saying:

"reports that CBS News supports the suppression of identification of journalists who in the past have been used by the CIA are in error. CBS News opposes such suppression as a matter of simple justice to the vast majority of American journalists who have never engaged in such practices."

Pike said publication of reporters' names "at this time would serve no useful purpose."

"They would be subject to harm, ridicule, and perhaps worse. I'm not a believer in publishing names," Pike said.

He acknowledged that withholding the names of individual journalists and organizations that had relations with the CIA is bound to leave a lingering suspicion around reporters at home and abroad.

"That is a concern," he said. "But it would not be enough to make me favor publishing." *United Press*