

Pike Panel Finishes Work; Fate of Proposals Unclear

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The controversial 13-man House intelligence committee goes out of business today with the future unclear for its primary recommendation — that the House establish a permanent oversight committee on intelligence.

At the committee's final working session yesterday the members approved a package of 20 recommendations intended to make minor and major changes in the organization and operation of the U.S. foreign and domestic intelligence community.

Chairman Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.) said at the conclusion of the meeting that he did not know "the future of the recommendations . . . but I

hope the major ones pass." But Pike said yesterday he had no plans now to introduce legislation for establishing a permanent intelligence oversight committee.

Rather, he intends to file the recommendations with the House Clerk today. Thereafter, he said, "it will be up to the leadership."

A ranking committee Democrat, who asked not to be named, said, "We're going back to the old system" of oversight.

Under that system, three House committees received notification of significant CIA covert operations but only the Armed Services and Appropriations committees have authority to explore other intelligence budgets or operations.

"The House has got to be pushed into setting up a new committee," the ranking Democrat said. "I expect the Speaker will wait until the Senate acts."

In the Senate, a proposal establishing a new intelligence committee for that body has already been the subject of hearings and legislation is expected to be drafted by March 1 — the day the Senate intelligence committee is scheduled to go out of business.

Without a successor committee, the recommendations of the House committee will be distributed to various legislative committees.

Along with establishing an oversight committee, the Pike

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committee's major recommendations included:

- Reporting of covert CIA operations to the new intelligence committee "within 48 hours of initial approval" along with the written support documents.

- Establishment of a subcommittee of the National Security Council to provide executive branch oversight on covert and clandestine activities.

- Creation of an inspector general for intelligence to investigate possible misconduct in all agencies with intelligence operations.

- Abolition of the Defense Intelligence Agency and transfer of its functions to the CIA and an assistant secretary of defense for intelligence.

- Creation of a Director of Central Intelligence with a seat on the National Security Council and authority over the "entire foreign intelligence community" including the CIA.

- Enactment of legislation to define the electronic monitoring role of the National Security Agency in the case of American citizens.

House Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) has held up taking any action on the intelligence committee report since the full House voted overwhelmingly to withhold public distribution without approval of the President.

A spokesman for Albert said he would decide on how the report would be handled once the committee's final recommendations were made.

There has been some pressure on Albert by top Democrats to release the report as a classified document to the members and then have another floor vote on its public release.

A spokesman for Albert said yesterday the Rules Committee would be given the task of bringing out legislation to form any new intelligence committee.

The oversight committee's future was further complicated yesterday when House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) and Rep. William S. Cohen (R-Maine) introduced a bill to establish a joint House-Senate committee on intelligence.

The Rhodes-Cohen proposal picks up the Ford administration's preference for a single congressional intelligence committee rather than separate ones in each house. Since it must pass both houses of Congress and be signed by the President, the

joint committee route, if followed, could take months or years before implementation. Furthermore, it could be subject to presidential veto if it contains any provision to which the White House objects.

In a closing statement, committee member Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.) expressed

a view of the 6 ½ month investigation.

"This has not been the most earthshaking investigation," Dellums said at one point, but for him it was "frightening."

"I am not sure Congress is willing to come to grips with this subject," he added.

Dellums said he "admired the leadership" of Pike "though I did not always

agree with his tactics."

That led other members to speak briefly about the inquiry, with the television cameras grinding.

Pike ended it quickly by saying, "I have a low threshold for this sort of thing. Let's adjourn to another room where we can celebrate in a more fitting manner."