

# FORD OFFERS AID IN CHECKING LEAK

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Angry Over Publication

of Parts of the House  
Intelligence Report

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—President Ford, blaming Congress for the leak of a copy of the secret report of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, offered today to provide the "full resources and services of the executive branch" to investigate the disclosure.

Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, announced that the President had made the offer through an aide to the House Speaker, Carl Albert, in light of the publication yesterday by The Village Voice of 21 pages of what were described as excerpts from the text of the controversial report.

A senior White House official said privately that Mr. Ford's offer was meant to demonstrate the President's displeasure at the publication of the material in the weekly New York newspaper and to underline the President's view that "it's Albert's responsibility" to determine the source of the leak.

Mr. Albert, an Oklahoma Democrat, had no immediate comment on the President's offer. An aide said that Mr. Albert had only begun to read the official version of the committee's report, which the House voted Jan. 29 to withhold from the public because of the allegedly sensitive information it contained.

## No Assistance Asked

Mr. Nessen acknowledged at a news briefing that Mr. Albert had not asked for any assistance from the Administration. He also said under questioning that the Administration had not seen what was published by The Village Voice, did not know if the disclosure was in violation of any laws and did not know if anything in the newspaper's version of the report might compromise national security.

Even so, Mr. Nessen said, the President presumed that Mr. Albert would want to determine how "somebody clearly has violated an overwhelming vote of the House of Representatives" to keep the report secret.

The Presidential spokesman declined to specify what "resources and services" Mr. Ford might provide or to say if that meant Mr. Ford was suggesting that agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation be asked to interview members of the committee or its staff.

But Mr. Nessen took exception to the suggestion of the committee's chairman, Representative Otis G. Pike, Democrat of Suffolk County, that the Central Intelligence Agency might have provided the draft to the newspaper in an effort to embarrass the committee.

The President is confident, Mr. Nessen said, that the material in The Village Voice "did not come out of the executive branch." He also said that it was Mr. Ford's "predisposition" to assume that someone in Congress was responsible for leaking the material.

## Three Drafts of Report

According to Mr. Nessen, officials at the C.I.A. and the White House had access only to the first of three drafts of the report. He said that if the material published in The Voice contained passages not in the initial draft, it would show "conclusively" that the source of the leak was on Capitol Hill.

Sources familiar with the final version of the committee's report were quoted, however, in The New York Times this morning as saying that the version obtained by The Voice appeared to be the initial draft—the draft available to the Administration.

The final committee document, which was obtained and described by The Times and other news organizations two weeks ago, contained a number of findings that displeased the White House. The report alleged inadequate controls over C.I.A. spending, cited supposed failures of the intelligence community to give advance warning of important events abroad, charged that some covert activities had involved unacceptable risk and contained sharp criticism of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

One White House official, stressing Mr. Ford's irritation that the draft became public, said that the President offered assistance to Mr. Albert because "it's his report, it's Albert's responsibility."

The official said that the Administration would have no motive to make public what the official called "all the slimy stuff" in the report.

"Why would we want to make this stuff public?" he asked. "It doesn't do anybody in the executive any good. It smears everybody."

Nonetheless, Mr. Nessen said at the news briefing that the President had never objected to publication of the committee's "conclusions, opinions or recommendations," only to the disclosure of classified documents that the parcel had obtained after agreeing they would be kept confidential unless the Administration or the courts approved their publication.