

CIA (A)

# 300 MAY FACE QUIZ ON LEAK OF REPORT

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## Ethics Unit Head Describes Plans for Wide Inquiry in Request for \$350,000 NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 16— Representative John J. Flynt, chairman of a House committee investigating the leak of a report by the House Select Committee on Intelligence, said today that 300 to 400 persons could be questioned in the inquiry and that public hearings were probable.

Mr. Flynt said it was also probably that persons would be interrogated by his investigators not only here and in New York, but also in other areas of the country and possibly overseas.

The remarks of the Georgia Democrat, who is chairman of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, commonly known as the house ethics committee, were made at a hearing of the Accounts Subcommittee of the House Administration Committee, which is considering Mr. Flynt's request for \$350,000 to conduct the investigation.

The investigation itself was voted by the House last month when it directed the ethics committee to determine how a copy of the report of the House Select Committee on Intelligence was made available to the press.

### Some Members Startled

Mr. Flynt's reference to the number of persons who could be questioned startled some members of the subcommittee.

Representative Mendel J. Davis, Democrat of South Carolina, asked Mr. Flynt if he thought the investigation could be ended by next July 31, as the chairman had noted in a letter to the subcommittee.

"I hope so," Mr. Flynt replied, "but until the first question is put to the first witness, no one can predict how long it will last."

"There may be in excess of 300 to 400 called to testify," Mr. Flynt added. Later, he told newsmen that he had not meant to use the word "testify" but that he had really meant that this was the number of persons who could be questioned by committee investigators, rather than put on the witness stand.

Asked later if he had indeed

meant as many as 400, Mr. Flynt confirmed the number and added, "I don't know, it could be one or it could be 1,000."

He reiterated his position that the duration and the depth of the investigation depended on the degree of cooperation by the first group to be questioned.

### To Question Schorr

Asked specifically whether the committee would first question Daniel Schorr, the CBS News correspondent here who has admitted receiving a copy of the select committee report and making it public, Mr. Flynt replied, "Nothing would please our committee more than for Mr. Schorr to respond to our first question."

But the committee chairman added that he had not meant to imply that Mr. Schorr would be the first person to be questioned. He said the first to be interviewed could be someone else, such as a staff member of the select committee, which is headed by Representative Otis G. Pike, Democrat of Suffolk.

After obtaining a copy of the report and broadcasting portions of it, Mr. Schorr made the document available to The Village Voice, a New York weekly newspaper, which published long excerpts from the report after the House had formally voted not to make the report public.

The publishing of the report caused a furor in the House, which then directed Mr. Flynt's committee to determine the circumstances of the leak.

Since it is probable that Mr. Schorr would, if questioned, refuse to disclose the source of the report, Mr. Flynt's committee then could question the members of the select committee, its staff, and hundreds of persons in the State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and in other Federal agencies that had access to the document.

### Critique of C.I.A.

The report itself was an examination and critique of the effectiveness of the C.I.A. and other intelligence-gathering agencies.

In testimony before the subcommittee today and in remarks to newsmen later, Mr. Flynt also said the ethics committee was considering holding public hearings after the initial questioning of persons who may know about the leak. He added that he did not know when they might start.

Representative John L. Burton, Democrat of California, questioned the need for \$120,000 in travel funds in Mr. Flynt's request for \$350,000.

"We have been notified by staff and members of the Pike committee that former staff members may be in remote parts of the country or the World," Mr. Flynt said.