

CIA (D)

House Unit Bids Newsmen Aid Inquiry on Disclosure

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WASHINGTON, June 10—The House ethics committee has requested that a dozen newsmen, including three reporters for The New York Times, voluntarily answer questions dealing with the unauthorized disclosure of the report by the House Select Committee on Intelligence.

The approaches have been made by members of the committee, including its chairman, Representative John J. Flynt Jr., Democrat of Georgia, and staff aides.

Some of the journalists have not formally replied to the overtures, although the common response has been a refusal, in the face of a subpoena, to discuss the circumstances surrounding disclosures of the report's contents.

Mr. Flynt declined today to discuss the investigation, or to say whether the committee would attempt to vote subpoenas to compel the appearance of the newsmen. If the subpoenas are voted, the result could be a First Amendment confrontation between Congress and the press.

Report Was Suppressed

Reports of the document's contents were published five months ago in The New York Times and were broadcast on CBS News. On Jan. 29, the House voted to suppress the report, which was highly critical of the Central Intelligence Agency and other Federal intelligence-gathering groups.

But in February, Daniel Schorr, a CBS News correspondent here, made a copy of one version of the report available to The Village Voice, a weekly newspaper in Manhattan, which published extensive extracts.

This enraged many representatives, and the House voted a formal investigation into who among its members and staff aides had provided the assistance to newsmen. The ethics committee, formally named the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, was directed to investigate and voted \$150,000 to carry out the inquiry.

Mr. Schorr is among those who have been asked to provide the committee voluntarily with information about the disclosures. After he conceded having provided the copy to The Village Voice, CBS News suspended him pending the outcome of the inquiry.

Inquiry Delayed

The investigation was delayed seven weeks by a dispute over the amount of money that the committee needed for it. When that was resolved, the committee retired members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to undertake the work.

A month ago, Mr. Flynt said that his investigators had talked with 125 people who might be familiar with the case, adding that the committee had hoped to have the inquiry finished by the end of this month.

The Times reporters who have been approached by the committee are John M. Crewdson, Nicholas M. Horrock and Eileen Shanahan.

Others are George E. Lardner and Laurence M. Stern of The Washington Post, Jim Adams of The Associated Press, Lyle W. Denniston of The Washington Star, Jack Nelson of The Los Angeles Times, Ranjit de Silva of Reuters, Ford Rowan of NBC News and Jack Landau of Newhouse Newspapers.