

CIA (D)

# Ex-Counsel Asserts Security Was Lax In Intelligence Unit

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WASHINGTON, July 21 [UPI] — Security in the House intelligence committee was so lax that staff members kept top secret papers on their desks and copied material for their own files, a former committee counsel testified today.

The description of sieve-like security at the now-defunct panel came during hearings by the House ethics committee on the matter of who gave a secret Congressional intelligence report to Daniel Schorr, a CBS reporter.

The ethics panel went into closed session as soon as the security details came to light, presumably for fear that sensitive or embarrassing details might be made public.

During the open session in the morning, James Oliphant, counsel to the intelligence panel, said proper security rules "were not followed" by the panel during its long investigation late last year and early this year of covert operations by the Central Intelligence Agency.

"Security was very, very lax," Mr. Oliphant said. "People in charge of files did not have any library or any security background. People kept materials in their own desks, including classified material — top secret."

He said some staff members even copied confidential materials on office duplicating machines and put the copies in their own files.

The ethics panel is in the final phases of a \$150,000 investigation into who gave Mr. Schorr a copy of the intelligence committee's final report, a document laced with confidential material and highly critical of C.I.A. operations.

The House voted to keep that report secret until President Ford could censor it. Mr. Schorr admitted he got a copy from a source he refused to name and gave it to The Village Voice newspaper of New York, which published much of it.

Ethics panel investigators have testified they have only been able to narrow the field of suspects to a broad range of individuals in government, because so many copies of the report were distributed around Washington.