

FULBRIGHT PANEL VOTES FOR A ROLE IN POLICING C.I.A.

Russell Expected to Oppose
Move for Equal Voice in
His Watchdog Group

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WASHINGTON, May 17 —

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved today a resolution that would give it an equal role with the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees in supervising the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency. The vote was 14 to 5.

The resolution would create a select committee of nine members to be known as the Committee in Intelligence Operations. The chairmen of the Armed Services, Appropriations and Foreign Relations Committees would each name three members, of whom no more than two could be from the same party.

At present, seven members from the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees have jurisdiction over the Senate's "legislative oversight" of the C.I.A.

Before the vote was taken, the sponsor of the resolution, Eugene J. McCarthy, Democrat of Minnesota, amended it by deleting three provisions.

Two Goals in Mind

The first of these would have brought the counterespionage activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation within the purview of the expanded watchdog committee.

The second and third would have given the committee power to hire a staff and draw on the Senate's contingency funds for expenses.

Mr. McCarthy had two objectives in these revisions.

First, he hoped to win additional support for his resolution in a floor test by meeting criticisms raised yesterday by its opponents.

Second, he sought to avoid referral of the resolution to the Rules Committee, where it might have been bottled up. The provisions on staff and financing would have required such referral.

Later the Senate Parliamentarian, Floyd M. Riddick, told

reporters that the deletions would eliminate the need to send the resolution to the Rules Committee.

Nevertheless, the resolution will face two other hurdles before it reaches the floor.

Richard B. Russell, who is chairman of the Armed Services Committee and also of the present watchdog committee, said he would move to have the McCarthy resolution referred to his Armed Services Committee.

If the Senate supports his move, the Armed Services Committee is expected to bury the resolution or report it out unfavorably. Yesterday Mr. Russell bitterly criticized the resolution as an attempt to "muscle in" on the jurisdiction of the watchdog committee.

If the Senate does not support Mr. Russell's move, the timing of floor action on the resolution is up to the Democratic Policy Committee. Although its chairman, Mike Mansfield of Montana, the majority leader, supports the resolution, at least six of the other eight members of the committee are believed to be opposed to it. Three of them—Mr. Russell, Carl Hayden of Arizona and Stuart Symington of Missouri—are on the C.I.A. watchdog committee.

3 From G.O.P., 2 Democrats

The five members of the Foreign Relations Committee opposing the resolution were Bourke B. Hickenlooper of Iowa, Frank Carlson of Kansas and Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota, all Republicans; Mr. Symington and Frank J. Lausche, Democrat of Ohio.

Mr. Lausche proposed an amendment that would have required the members of the watchdog committee to be elected by the three parent committees rather than appointed by the chairmen. This was regarded, informed sources said, as a "personal affront" to J. W. Fulbright, the committee chairman, and was defeated by a vote of 7 to 2.

Members of the present watchdog committee argue that expansion would almost certainly increase the likelihood of leaks that would endanger national security and possibly imperil the lives of "deep cover" C.I.A. agents and their informants.

'Fiasco' Is Cited

Advocates of expansion contend that the present Senate committee has been largely content to receive without question what the C.I.A. wishes to tell it; that it is "clued in" on operations after, not before, the event and therefore has little restraining influence on the C.I.A., and that it has been too prone to judge C.I.A. operations on the basis of "military arguments" advanced to justify them, without considering their possible unfortunate political consequences.

These critics of the present arrangement believe Mr. Rus-

sell inadvertently gave support to their arguments during floor debate yesterday when Ernest Gruening, Democrat of Alaska, cited the "ghastly fiasco" of the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in April, 1961, as evidence of the influence that the C.I.A. could have on policy. This episode, Mr. Gruening said, was pertinent to the question of whether the Foreign Relations Committee should be represented on the watchdog committee.

Mr. Russell replied that "the operation was hopeless, because from the beginning it was based on mistakes." All those involved, Mr. Russell continued, made mistakes "except the Senator from Arkansas," who "advised against it."

Mr. Russell was alluding to a memorandum that Mr. Fulbright gave to President Kennedy on April 1, 1961, during a flight to Florida in which the Senator opposed United States support for, or participation in, an invasion of Cuba. Mr. Russell was also alluding to Mr. Fulbright's opposition later expressed during a State Department meeting three days later at which the President's advisers pronounced the plan militarily feasible.

Mr. Russell told the Senate yesterday that he knew about the training of Cuban refugees in Guatemala but "did not know the timing" of the invasion.

"I only wish I had been consulted," Mr. Russell declared, "because I would have strongly advised against this kind of operation if I had been. That may have been one reason why I was not consulted."

Earlier Resolution Recalled

Supporters of the McCarthy resolution also recalled today what Leverett Saltonstall, Republican of Massachusetts, said during a debate in April, 1956, when he opposed a resolution by Mr. Mansfield to create a joint Congressional committee on the C.I.A. as recommended by the Hoover Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government.

"The difficulty in asking questions (of the C.I.A. director and getting information)," Mr. Saltonstall said, "is that we might obtain information which I personally would rather not have, unless it was essential for me as a member of Congress to have it."

Through pressure exerted by Mr. Russell and the late Alben W. Barkley, Democrat of Kentucky, the Mansfield resolution was defeated by a vote of 50 to 27, although it had originally had 35 sponsors.

When Mr. Mansfield introduced his resolution in 1954, he said:

"An urgent need exists for regular and responsible Congressional scrutiny of the Central Intelligence Agency. Such scrutiny is essential to the success of our foreign policy, to the preservation of our democratic processes and to the security of the intelligence agency itself."