

House Rejects, 267-147, Move to Disclose

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—The House of Representatives decided overwhelmingly today to continue to keep the budget of the Central Intelligence Agency secret from the public.

By a vote of 267 to 147, the House rejected an amendment to a \$112-billion military appropriation bill that would have permitted the total expenditures of the intelligence agency to be published for the first time.

The House also defeated an attempt to delete from the bill money for the development of the controversial F-18 fighter aircraft.

Final passage of the over-all measure was put off until tomorrow.

The bill would reduce the Ford Administration's request for military programs in the fiscal year that began July 1 by 7.6-billion. However, more than \$2-billion of that reduc-

tion involves requested money for the Indochina War and for shipbuilding contracts that have been deferred since the budget was sent to Congress.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to restore some of the cuts made by the House.

Representative Robert N. Giaino, Democrat of Connecticut, who led the effort to publish the C.I.A. budget, said the rejection of his amendment showed that the House was not ready "to assume the responsibility" for overseeing the activities of the intelligence community.

Figure Concealed

Since the creation of the C.I.A., Congress has kept the agency's budget secret by concealing the figure in the appropriation for other agencies. This year, according to Mr. Giaino, the appropriation for the intelligence agency is part of a \$2-billion line-item in the

budget described as "other procurement, Air Force."

Publication of the intelligence agency's budget was one of the principal recommendations of the Presidential commission headed by Vice President Rockefeller that investigated the C.I.A. earlier this year.

Until this year, the budget request of the agency and the amount eventually appropriated was known only to a handful of Congressmen.

This year, however, under pressure from Mr. Giaino and others, Representative George H. Mahon, chairman of the Appropriations Committee permitted all members of his defenses subcommittee to interrogate C.I.A. witnesses about the agency's budget.

Moreover, Mr. Mahon, a Texas Democrat, agreed last week to permit all House members to read the testimony from agency officials and to see the budget as long as they agreed not to take notes or divulge

C.I.A. Budget to the Public

the material to outsiders.

Mr. Giaino called these actions "significant steps" but said they were not enough. Addressing the House, he declared:

"There is a balance in all secrecy matters. There are goals, and there are losses in defending ourselves against possible aggression from the outside. However, we must be careful that the very instruments which we create to defend us do not cause us to lose our liberties."

Mr. Giaino said that he only wanted to publish the total appropriation for the agency, not the individual allotments for various activities. The over-all figure, he said, would in no way compromise the nation's security.

Reliable Congressional sources who have seen the budget figures over the years have placed the appropriation at between \$750-million and \$1-billion. That information has been

widely published in the press, but has never been confirmed officially.

Mr. Giaino's contention that the budget information would not compromise security was challenged by representatives from both parties.

Mr. Mahon said that official publication of the budget was "not a favor which we should be doing to the U.S.S.R. and the Communist conspiracy."

Representative Robert L. F. Sikes, a Florida Democrat, said that publication of the over-all budget figure would eventually lead to "full disclosure of anything and everything we've tried to keep secret from our enemies."

Representative Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts, the majority leader, and Representative John J. McFall of California, the Democratic whip, were among those who voted to keep the budget secret.