

## ... The Right to Know

The confusion over the question of secrecy is illustrated by the fact that the substance of the report on the Central Intelligence Agency by the House Select Committee on Intelligence has become obscured by the row over its unauthorized publication. Instead of giving consideration to the committee's findings, the House has let its attention be diverted to an inquiry into the way the document was leaked to television reporter Daniel Schorr.

Any possible breach of security—whether by the committee's own members or staff or by the executive agencies which also had access to the document—is, of course, a legitimate matter of concern by the House. It clearly has a responsibility to determine whether pledges were broken and confidences violated.

That in no way alters the reality that the bulk of the report is already in the public domain. An examination of its content establishes two facts:

- The leaked document (which had actually already been edited—to some extent in consultation with the C.I.A.—to exclude sensitive material) discloses nothing that could be construed as a genuine threat to national security;

pertinent to the effort to reform the C.I.A.

- The report contains a great deal of information

Much of the committee's attention was aimed at the fiscal management of American intelligence operations.

The American people have every right to know that the

committee estimates the cost of those operations to be at least three times the amount reported to Congress.

Nor should Congress ignore the implications of the charge that fiscal personnel in the C.I.A. and the Office of Management and Budget have often been virtually interchangeable, thus raising the question whether there has been objective monitoring of intelligence costs.

The committee's disclosure of faulty or tagging intelligence in past international crises or military confrontations, is obviously already known to this country's adversaries—but needs to be known by Congress and the public in evaluating the efficiency of the intelligence agencies.

As for disclosure of domestic operations which violated the civil liberties and constitutional rights of Americans, the Nixon years were proof enough that the only threat to national security in that field would be a license to persist in such practices.

In calling for a House resolution to publish his committee's report, chairman Otis Pike quite properly insists that an investigation ordered by Congress should not expire without official publication of its findings and recommendations, as a spur to legislative action to prevent further abuses.