

Riot Unit Considers Wiretapping

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SACRAMENTO — Laws legalizing wiretaps on a less restrictive basis are favored by the chairman of the State Senate Subcommittee on Riots and Disorders, created a year ago to replace the Senate Subcommittee on Un-American Activities.

Senator Dennis Carpenter (R-Newport Beach) declined, however, to specify yet what new laws the subcommittee might recommend this year.

Carpenter said electronic surveillance has been "the best tool" available to federal agents in "big busts." The Legislature has consistently killed wiretap legalization proposals.

'Public Safety'

"We have to look at this thing from the standpoint of public safety," said Carpenter in his first public comments on the subcommittee's work and his own preliminary conclusions.

The senator, a former FBI agent, was named chairman last March. Since then he has been "researching" — a word he prefers to investigating — the circumstances of campus turmoil, prison riots and bombings.

He believes that riots on California campuses in past years were planned and not spontaneous outbursts.

WHY?

However, he said so far he has been unable to determine why so many students joined in the violent outbursts — or the reasons why campuses have quieted down in the past two years. But he said the subcommittee operates on the assumption that hard-core activists organized the violence.

"I think it would be politically motivated people attempting to utilize unpopular causes, usually the war, to launch attacks on our institutions and our government," Senator Carpenter said in an interview.

"My general opinion is that rioting and violence are not spontaneous overflowings of human emotion," said the Newport Beach Republican.

The new four-member pan-

el replaced the controversial subcommittee on Un-American activities, which published occasional reports linking persons to alleged subversive organizations.

Legislator on File

The old subcommittee operated for nearly three decades under then-Senator Hugh Burns (D-Fresno) on the assumption a conspiracy plotted to overthrow the government. It finally went too far last year in the eyes of legislative leaders, when several of them found their own names in its secret files.

The files were sealed in the state archives and the panel

disbanded. Its successor was admonished to tone down its activities.

Carpenter took control of the reconstituted subcommittee last March and soon hired another former FBI agent, Robert Ryan, as an assistant.

"The purpose of this committee is to recommend legislation and solutions to the problems of riots and disorders," said the 43 year old, prematurely gray chairman.

But he was sorry to see his preceding committee abolished.

"The point is we're talking about a new subject, which is

restrictive in nature," he said. "The people and organizations that foment riots are going to be included, but not all of them have been active in Un-American activities."

'Crazy People'

For some motive, he said, "the handful of crazy people who were always there, were able to enlist the people to do things they shouldn't have done." He cited the bank burning at Isla Vista as "something they shouldn't have done."

Asked if he planned to look further into underlying causes for violent demonstrations on campuses, Carpenter ac-

knowledged this would be part of his committee's work.

But he said the panel was under-financed to begin large-scale studies into causes of violence, whether on campuses, in prisons or behind sporadic bombings.

"I don't think we're going to be in a position to hire sociologists," he said.

Carpenter, a former Republican state chairman, said police have been "receptive" to the committee's preliminary findings indicating new, tougher laws are needed and that both can work together to "collate" information.