

Percy Wants Survey of Federal 'Snooper' Units

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Washington

Senator Charles H. Percy said yesterday he has asked for an accounting of all the intelligence, police and investigative agents hidden within the federal government so Congress can bring them under its control.

If he succeeds, it will be the first such comprehensive survey of the federal police and intelligence community ever conducted and reported to Congress.

The Illinois Republican said his request was part of a renewed congressional interest, prompted by the revelations of Watergate, in passing legislation to protect privacy rights against government encroachment.

"We find ourselves threatened by the specter of a 'watchdog' government breeding a nation of snoopers," Percy said.

"We are threatened because we do not know the facts about our intelligence community. Billions are appropriated each year, but we do not know enough about which agencies spend this money and what they spend it for.

"There is an immediate, urgent need for a comprehensive accounting of the U.S. funds and federal government personnel devoted to police, investigative and intelligence work," he said. "Congress is simply not performing the oversight functions our citizens expect of us.

Percy said he has asked

Comptroller General Elmer B. Staats to report to the Senate Government Operations Committee as quickly as possible how many people are in such work, what their missions are and how much the government pays for their services.

He said the committee, of which he is the ranking Republican member, would then conduct hearings aimed at getting rid of "excessive and unnecessary" police and

intelligence efforts and setting up "adequate congressional control" over the remainder.

Percy said a Library of Congress survey showed more than 60 units within the federal bureaucracy—ranging from the Agriculture Department to the FBI to the Smithsonian Institution—involved in police, investigative or intelligence work.

He said the limited infor-

mation available shows that the budget for only 14 of these units exceeds \$1 billion a year.

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