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∓CASEY TESTIMONY DISAPPOINTS SENATE PANEL

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∓ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - ANOTHER SENATE COMMITTEE IS ABOUT TO GIVE CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM CASEY A LESS-THAN-ENTHUSIASTIC REVIEW FOR HIS TESTIMONY, THIS TIME ON THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

IT WILL BE THE SECOND TIME IN TWO MONTHS THAT A PANEL OF THE REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED SENATE HAS FOUND FAULT WITH CASEY. AFTER INVESTIGATING HIS PAST BUSINESS PRACTICES, THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE DECIDED IN DECEMBER HE WAS ''NOT UNFIT TO SERVE'' BUT CRITICIZED OMISSIONS IN HIS ANSWERS TO COMMITTEE QUESTIONS.

NOW, REPUBLICAN ORRIN HATCH, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE CONSTITUTION SUBCOMMITTEE, SAYS HE IS WILLING TO HAVE THE PANEL'S REPORT EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT CASEY DIDN'T GIVE MORE SPECIFICS TO SUPPORT HIS CLAIM THAT THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT HAS HARMED THE AGENCY.

DEMOCRATS WHO HEARD CASEY'S CLOSED-DOOR TESTIMONY DEC. 9 ARE MORE UPSET.

SEN. PATRICK LEAHY, D-VT., CALLED THE TESTIMONY CONTRADICTORY AND SEN. DENNIS DECONCINI, D-ARIZ., TOLD THE SUBCOMMITTEE DEC. 14:

''THE INFORMATION GIVEN TO US BY THE CIA DIRECTOR WAS ANYTHING BUT SPECIFIC AND LEFT ME WITH GREAT DISTRESS AND ANXIETY WITH AN AGENCY THAT LACKS THE DIRECTION OR AT LEAST IS NOT WILLING TO CONFIDE IN THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN A PRIVATE, CLOSED SESSION.''

AS PART OF ITS CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS BY HATCH AND THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO RESTRICT THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO GET GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS UNDER THE ACT, THE SUBCOMMITTEE CALLED BOTH CASEY AND FBI DIRECTOR WILLIAM WEBSTER FOR PRIVATE TESTIMONY EXPECTING TO HEAR SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF HOW THE FOI HAS HARMED THEIR AGENCIES.

THE SENATORS' CONCERN CENTERS ON THE FOLLOWING PORTION OF CASEY'S TESTIMONY, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN DECLASSIFIED:

CASEY: OUR AGENT NETWORK IS PLACED IN JEOPARDY. GOOD AGENTS DECIDE THEY CANNOT ENTRUST THEIR CAREERS, THEIR LIVES, THEIR REPUTATIONS TO WORK FOR US BECAUSE THEY JUST DON'T HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT WE CAN KEEP SECRETS.

HATCH: YOU HAVE PINPOINTED SOME AGENTS WHO HAVE QUIT FOR THAT REASON?

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