

THE NEED FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CIA

(Mr. JOELSON (at the request of Mr. McVicker) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. JOELSON. Mr. Speaker, I have today introduced a resolution which will provide for a special committee to study the operations, activities, and expenditures of the Central Intelligence Agency. I am concerned about the blanket of secrecy which keeps the operations and expenditures of the Central Intelligence Agency not only from the general public, but from their duly authorized representatives in Congress. I recognize the need for security, and my resolution therefore provides that the hearings of the special committee be conducted in private. However, in a democracy, there is no excuse for distrusting representatives of the people or denying them access to basic information.

My resolution authorizes and directs the Speaker of the House to appoint a special bipartisan committee of seven House Members. It provides that among the members shall be at least two members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and two members of the House Appropriations Committee.

There is no reason why the total amount of money spent annually by the CIA should be unknown to Members of Congress. I would suppose that in the House of Representatives there are no more than 5 to 10 members who know how much money that agency is spending each year. More important, we do not know how effective the organization is nor even what it is doing. Because of the vital impact of the CIA on the international scheme, the fullest possible congressional scrutiny is in the public interest.