

from

Mike Harrington

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Washington Office:

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(202) 225-8020

FARRINGTON TAKES STEPS TO CHALLENGE "CONGRESSIONAL COVER-UP"

U.S. Representative Michael J. Harrington (D-Mass.) today launched a series of actions that challenge the motives, rules and assumptions behind the recent House Armed Services Committee move to deny him further access to its files.

Calling the committee's unprecedented action "a case of astonishing hypocrisy," Harrington said he would not allow the controversy to center on the narrow question of parliamentary procedure, although he believes the committee vote violated the rules of the House. In a letter to House Speaker Carl Albert, Harrington said that Congress must face a broader issue: "What is the responsibility of a Member who discovers in classified records a clear indication that his government has broken the law?"

Harrington told reporters at a Capitol Hill news conference that a congressman has a duty to disclose evidence of criminal activity to colleagues or other appropriate authorities, regardless of agreements to abide by secrecy rules. "Ordinarily those who sign such agreements expect to see references to secret but legal activities," Harrington said. "The enforcement of such an agreement to keep illegal activities secret is itself illegal."

The controversy over Harrington's handling of classified material arose last year when he told a number of his colleagues about the secret testimony of CIA director William Colby, which indicated that the United States had spent about \$8 million to block the election of Salvador Allende Gossens as President of Chile and then to "destabilize" his government after he won. (Allende was overthrown and killed in September of 1973, and Chile became a military dictatorship.) The Armed Services Committee, which holds the Colby testimony in its files, resurrected the incident on June 10 and 16 (nine months after the story of the CIA in Chile appeared in the New York Times), at the height of the controversy over Congressman Lucien Nedzi's continuation as chairman of the newly formed House Select Committee on Intelligence. As chairman of the standing Armed Services Subcommittee on Intelligence, Nedzi had failed to take action on the U.S. involvement in Chile and on secret word of CIA assassination schemes.

Harrington said he has asked the Speaker to call a special session of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee to discuss the secrecy issue, saying that all Members of Congress have become "accomplices," to some degree, in improper covert activities because of their pledges of silence. The only way out of the problem, Harrington said, is to "challenge the basic assumptions of a classification system gone wild."

while restating his belief that the United States needs a "first-rate" intelligence gathering system which does require some secrecy, Harrington said the Top Secret stamp has been used to cover up improper interference in the affairs of other nations and violations of constitutional rights in the U.S. "The mindless rubber-stamping of every conceivable document as SECRET and the facile attachment of the 'national security' label to any official action, no matter how illegal or anti-democratic, is the greatest threat to freedom we have yet encountered," Harrington said.

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In addition to calling for the Steering and Policy Committee meeting, Harrington announced he has taken the following steps:

* In a letter to Democratic CaUcus chairman Phil Burton, Harrington has asked that the next regular meeting of the Caucus also take up the question of a Member's responsibility when faced with a choice between breaking a secrecy pledge and joining in a cover-up. "The unwillingness of the House to face this dilemma is what has allowed the Select Committee controversy to degenerate into stalemate," Harrington said. "It is the major reason why the Congress has failed so miserably in its intelligence oversight responsibility."

* In a letter to Congressman John J. Flynt, chairman of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, Harrington has demanded a public appearance before the committee for a complete airing of the Armed Services Committee action and the motives behind it. Although Flynt has hinted that the Standards Committee is reluctant to deal with the controversy, Harrington assured him: "I do not intend to let this matter lie. I see the Armed Services move as an unprincipled attempt to sully my reputation and to help subvert the House Select Committee on Intelligence, of which I am a member."

* In a letter to Chairman Price of House Armed Services, Harrington has assailed the committee move against him, demanding an opportunity to discuss his actions before a public session of the full committee. (At the June 16 session where the committee voted to deny him future access to its files, Harrington was not allowed to speak.) "I trust that your membership has not yet become so enamored of agency dirty tricks that it has decided to adopt them as committee procedure," Harrington said.

Copies of Harrington's letters are attached.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MICHAEL J. HARRINGTON

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

July 8, 1975

The Honorable Carl Albert
Chairman
Democratic Steering and Policy Committee
Room 2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On June 10, and again on June 16, the House Armed Services Committee passed a resolution offered by Mr. Ichord which, for all its procedural dubiety and ulterior intention, brought into focus one of the most fundamental questions now facing this institution: What is the responsibility of a Member of Congress who discovers in classified records a clear indication that his government has broken the law?

The Ichord motion itself, of course, does not ask this question. It asks instead for guidance from the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct regarding access to classified committee files. It also stipulates that until a response is received, I will be denied access to all files held by Armed Services. The ostensible motive for this action was my "previous refusal to honor House and Committee rules regarding material received by the Committee in executive session."

I do not intend to dwell here on the several ways in which this action itself appears to have violated the rules of the House, but I do believe that the Steering and Policy Committee should address some procedural questions: (1) Does the Committee on Armed Services, or any other committee, have the power to deny me my privileges as a Member of the House of Representatives? (2) Is it proper for the House or any committee of the House to take punitive action against a Member in the 94th Congress for something he may have done in a previous Congress? (3) Was it proper for Armed Services to seek guidance on the question of access to classified files from the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, a committee which has the authority to review the conduct of House Members, but which does not customarily interpret the rules of the Armed Services Committee or the rules of the House as a whole?

In addition, I call your attention to the fact that five members of House Armed Services also hold seats on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. Since these Members have already passed judgment on my actions by voting on the Ichord motion, I have notified Chairman Flynt of the Standards Committee that I expect these men to disqualify themselves from further formal participation in this controversy.

The more important issue for the House and the Democratic party, however, is the basic hypocrisy of the Armed Services maneuver and what it implies about the duties of a House Member. For example, it has been made clear -- most recently by Jack Anderson on ABC's "AM America" -- that leaks of classified information by Armed Services Committee members are commonplace. In a conversation with my staff Mr. Anderson said, "I have no difficulty getting secrets out of that committee when I want them." Apparently the committee's rules do not apply equally to everyone.

Moreover, one cannot ignore the curious timing of the Armed Services action against me. It coincided precisely with the debate on Mr. Nedzi's continuation as Chairman of the newly established House Select Committee on Intelligence, shifting the focus of the controversy from Lucien Nedzi's shortcomings as an overseer of intelligence operations to Michael Harrington's alleged recklessness in handling official secrets -- all on the very day that Mr. Nedzi's resignation as Select Committee Chairman was taken up by the House. It was yet another lame appeal to the concern for national security, used to obfuscate the failure of one individual and to chastise another for raising

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embarrassing questions. It does not take a conspiratorial mind to see it as part of a brazen attempt to subvert the Select Committee investigation.

We miss the point completely if we see this matter strictly as a question of committee regulations or political infighting. What it really illustrates is a pattern of Congressional acquiescence in what I have called "the game of shared secrets." Players in this game are first given one secret about illegal activity, and then another, and then another. The more they know, the more they are responsible for hiding, and the more they hide, the further the intelligence agencies and the Defense Department have compromised them. Eventually the impulse develops not to ask questions -- to cling to one's ignorance and let the Executive branch handle things in order to avoid further complicity. This, I suggest, is part of what happened to Mr. Nedzi in his role as Chairman of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Intelligence. By the time he came to learn of CIA outrages such as the planning of political assassinations and the undermining of democracy in Chile, he felt he couldn't speak out to his colleagues because to do so could ultimately lead them to ask why he didn't speak out before about all the other things.

Yet we all know that the United States has carried out the most dubious kinds of covert activities in a variety of countries for a very long time. Moreover, we have all, to some degree, become accomplices in allowing such policies to continue because of the silence to which we are pledged. The only way to avoid this dilemma is to challenge the basic assumptions of a classification system gone wild.

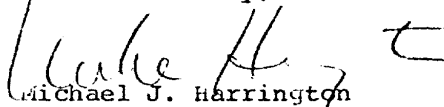
I have never questioned the need for a first-rate intelligence gathering system, and I have repeatedly voiced my respect to the Central Intelligence Agency for its performance in this regard. Clearly, maintaining such a system requires that we keep some secrets.

But the mindless rubber-stamping of every conceivable document as SECRET and the facile attachment of the "national security" label to any official action, no matter how illegal or anti-democratic, is the greatest threat to freedom we have yet encountered. It has provided the cover for operations both here and abroad that have done the gravest kind of damage to our self-respect and our international standing.

The cover-up by Congress of these kinds of actions is the issue that can no longer be avoided. Again, I repeat my initial question: What should a Congressman do when he finds, through the reading of secret testimony, that his own government has engaged in grotesque violations of the law and of democratic principle? I suggest that it is not to sit back and say "I signed a pledge to keep this information secret." I suggest that it is not merely to encourage hearings by the appropriate committees and subcommittees and then sit back when nothing happens and say "I did what I could." I maintain that there is a higher responsibility, inherent in the law, to proceed -- without impairing our intelligence gathering capability or putting the life of any individual in jeopardy -- so that the facts are made known to the appropriate authorities and the truth is ultimately told to the American people.

I believe that resolving the conflict between one's pledge of secrecy and one's responsibility to insure that unlawful action is exposed and challenged is a subject which the Democratic party and the House itself will have to address eventually, and it is something the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee ought to address immediately. I urge you, therefore, to call a meeting of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee to take up this vital question. I would, of course, want to address this issue at such a meeting and to come forth with suggestions as to how it can best be resolved.

Yours sincerely,


Michael J. Harrington

MJH:sjf

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MICHAEL J. HARRINGTON

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

July 8, 1975

The Honorable Phillip Burton
Chairman
House Democratic Caucus
Room 2454 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Phil:

I have written today to Speaker Albert in his capacity as Chairman of the Steering and Policy Committee to ask that we address the issue raised by the House Armed Services Committee's recent action which denied me further access to its files. I am not referring to the procedural improprieties of that move, which I believe were a mockery of House Rules, but to the broader issue: What is the responsibility of a Congressman when he learns from secret records that agencies or officials of his own government have broken the law? Which comes first -- his agreement to abide by secrecy rules or his obligation to see that official wrongdoing is brought to the attention of his colleagues or other appropriate authorities? A copy of my letter to Mr. Albert is enclosed.

The unwillingness of the House to face this dilemma is what has allowed the Select Committee controversy to degenerate into stalemate; it is the major reason why the Congress has failed so miserably in its intelligence oversight responsibility. I am therefore asking that the question posed above be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Democratic Caucus.

Yours sincerely,



Michael J. Harrington

MJH:sjf

Enclosure

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MICHAEL J. HARRINGTON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

July 8, 1975

The Honorable John J. Flynt, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct
Room 2360 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you acknowledged in your letter of June 26, the House Armed Services Committee has sent your committee a resolution seeking guidance as to the criteria that should govern the access of Members of Congress to committee files -- a move that was allegedly predicated on my disclosure of classified information to unauthorized persons. There are two major points which I feel I must raise with respect to this issue.

My first concern has to do with the manner in which Armed Services carried out its action against me. In the meeting where the committee voted to deny me further access to its records, I was not given the opportunity to explain or defend my actions -- an obvious violation of my right to due process. For this reason alone, I feel warranted in demanding to be heard before your committee in order to counter the allegations and assumptions implicit in the Armed Services Committee action. Since that committee did not allow me to testify publicly on my behalf, I believe it is vital that you take up this matter as soon as possible, in open session, so that I may be given the opportunity to set the record straight. Since, as you noted, your committee can take no formal action without an affirmative vote of at least seven Members, I ask that you inform your full committee of my feelings. I do not intend to let this matter lie. I see the Armed Services move as an unprincipled attempt to sully my reputation and to help subvert the House Select Committee on Intelligence, of which I am a member.

My second point also concerns both your committee and the Armed Services Committee. There are five Members who hold seats on both committees (Mr. Price, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Spence, and Mr. Mitchell). According to Section (D), Clause 4, Rule X of the rules of procedure of your committee:

"A member of the committee shall be ineligible to participate, as a member of the committee, in any committee proceeding relating to his or her official conduct. In any case in which a member of the committee is ineligible to act as a member of the committee under the preceding sentence, the Speaker of the House shall designate a member of the House from the same political party as the ineligible member of the committee to act as a member of the committee in any committee proceeding relating to the official conduct of such ineligible member."

In keeping with the spirit of this rule, I expect that those five members who sit on both committees will disqualify themselves from further formal participation in this controversy. The Armed Services Committee has already taken action on this matter and the Representatives who have dual committee membership have already made their judgment. It would be the clearest conflict of interest for those members now to "rejudge" the case.

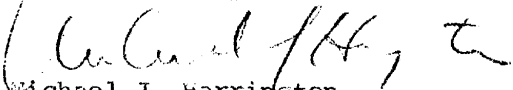
Only after the committee is properly reconstituted will it be able to handle fairly the real question at hand: What responsibilities does a Member of Congress have if he or she becomes aware, through the reading of secret testimony, that agencies or officials of the United States government have committed criminal acts? Every Member of the House should be vitally interested in the outcome of these deliberations, for any Member could be put in a situation comparable to mine.

On the one hand, a Member has the obligation of any citizen to report criminal activities to appropriate authorities. On the other hand, there is a committee regulation which prohibits disclosure of the information. I wonder how long Americans will tolerate the historic reaction of the House to this dilemma -- Members intentionally maintaining ignorance of Executive branch activities so that they cannot be held responsible. I am sure that your committee will want to examine the full ethical implications of this problem.

My request to your committee, again, is two-fold. I feel it is necessary for you to consider the matter sent you by the Armed Services Committee, providing me the opportunity to explain my actions and to state my views on the action taken against me. In addition, given the "interlocking directorates" of the two committees involved, I feel you must eliminate the conflict of interest situation.

I would appreciate your notifying me of your proposed action on both matters as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Michael J. Harrington

MJH:sjf

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MICHAEL J. HARRINGTON

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

July 8, 1975

The Honorable Melvin Price
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
Room 2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It seems a strange coincidence that your committee raised the issue of my access to its files at precisely the moment that Mr. Nedzi's disastrous performance as an overseer of the U.S. intelligence operations was being challenged by the Select Committee Democrats. On June 10, only five days after the New York Times report of Mr. Nedzi's failure to act on information of assassination schemes -- but a full nine months after first questioning my use of your records -- your committee met in closed session, without adhering to the normal notification procedures and without a quorum present, and voted to bar me from further access to committee files, both secret and public. On the same day that the House considered Mr. Nedzi's resignation from the Select Committee, the Ichord motion was reaffirmed by Armed Services in a narrow vote.

It is apparent that the committee's perfectly timed action was intended to orchestrate a shift in the focus of Congressional and public debate from Lucien Nedzi to Michael Harrington. It was another case, reminiscent of the Nixon scandals, in which the "national security" argument was raised to gloss over one individual's cover-up of illegal activities and to punish another for his attempts to generate Congressional action and concern.

If your committee's true intention had been to guard its classified files, it might have taken this action last year, in the 93rd Congress, when it still had some arguable jurisdiction. Instead, Members waited for a politically opportune time to raise a broad and sensitive issue to subdue the mounting criticism of Mr. Nedzi. As such, your committee's action was a case of astonishing hypocrisy.

That I was denied the opportunity to explain and discuss my actions publicly before the full committee prior to its vote violated my right to due process and underscored the true motive of the committee action. This was a shameless move to cripple my effectiveness as a Congressman and to undermine the Select Committee investigation.

Since you were not present, Mr. Chairman, at the June 16 meeting where I was denied the right to speak, I am asking now that you provide me the opportunity to appear before the full committee as soon as possible in order to give this entire affair a complete public airing. If your committee retains any belief in basic fairness and the American system of justice, it will comply with this request. I trust that your membership has not yet become so enamored of agency dirty tricks that it has decided to adopt them as committee procedure.

Yours sincerely,


Michael J. Harrington

MJH:sjf

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MICHAEL J. HARRINGTON

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A COVER-UP CHRONOLOGY
Background on Harrington/Armed Services
July 8, 1975

The chain of events that led to the House Armed Services Committee's action against Congressman Harrington on June 16 began on April 22, 1974. On that day Congressman Lucien Nedzi's Armed Services Subcommittee on Intelligence met in executive session to hear testimony from William Colby, Director of Central Intelligence, regarding events in Chile that culminated in the coup of September 11, 1973. Mr. Nedzi had called Colby in at Harrington's urging, and on June 4 and 12 of 1974, Harrington read the Director's classified testimony in the Armed Services Committee offices.

As he testified before the Nedzi subcommittee on September 25, Harrington was outraged at the contents of that transcript -- at the policy of the United States with regard to the Allende government, at the lies of U.S. officials about that policy, and at the failure of the oversight process in the Congress. After reading the testimony, he spoke with several subcommittee chairmen on House Foreign Affairs and with members of his staff about the general nature of the material in the transcript in an effort to determine how to have the subject addressed by the Congress and properly understood by the public. He also asked the advice of Lawrence Stern of the Washington Post, a personal friend who clearly understood that the story was not to be released.

After further conversations with Foreign Affairs subcommittee chairmen and with other colleagues on the committee in an effort to generate some hearings on the matter, Harrington wrote to Chairmen Morgan and Fulbright on July 18, 1974, reviewing Colby's testimony and saying: ". . . The Congress and the American people have a right to know what was done in our name in Chile. Much as I would prefer to see this accomplished within the channels of the Congressional process, its importance convinces me that our very system of government requires that knowledge of American activities in Chile not remain solely with a handful of officials and Members of Congress. Therefore, I urge you to promptly turn this matter to the attention of the Foreign Relations (Affairs) Committee for a complete, public investigation of the United States relations with Chile."

Harrington also explained: "The testimony was given on April 22, 1974, by Mr. Colby, who was accompanied by a Mr. Phillips, who is apparently the Latin American specialist with the CIA. Also in attendance were Chairman Nedzi and Frank Slatinshek, Chief Counsel of the House Armed Services Committee. Approximately one-third of the forty-eight pages of testimony is devoted to exposition by Mr. Colby of the continuous Central Intelligence Agency involvement in the internal politics of Chile from 1962 through 1973; most of the remainder of the testimony provides a description of the methods employed by the CIA in conducting such operations, focusing on the details of how activities in Chile were accomplished.

"Over the 1962 to 1973 period, the Forty Committee (an inter-departmental body that reviews and authorizes all covert CIA activities and is chaired by the President's advisor on national security affairs) authorized the expenditure of approximately \$11 million to help prevent the election of Allende and, in Colby's words, 'destabilize' the Allende government so as to precipitate his downfall. The Agency activities in Chile were viewed as a prototype, or laboratory experiment, to test the techniques of heavy financial involvement in efforts to discredit and bring down a government.

"Funding was provided to individuals, political parties, and media outlets in Chile through channels in other countries in both Latin America and Europe. Mr. Colby's description of these operations was direct, though not to the point of identifying actual contacts and conduits."

After reviewing the amounts of money authorized from 1962 through 1973 (of the \$11 million authorized, about \$8 million was spent), Harrington explained to the respective Chairmen that he had attempted to persuade some Members to investigate the U.S. involvement in Chile but no action was forthcoming as a result of those conversations. He said he was turning to them as a last resort, having despaired of the likelihood of anything occurring as a result of the avenues already pursued.

There was no response from Chairman Morgan. Senator Fulbright's written reply only suggested that the solution to the problem was the establishment of a joint committee on oversight.

On September 6, Seymour Hersh of the New York Times reached Harrington by telephone, saying he had a copy of the letter to Chairman Morgan and asking for background and comment. Hersh had not obtained the letter, or information about it, from Harrington or his office. The Congressman said he did not want the issue raised in this manner and would not comment on the substance of the letter until he saw the story in print. The Times ran the story on Sunday, September 8.

On or about September 10, Congressman Nedzi spoke with Harrington on the floor of the House, asking him to appear before the Intelligence Subcommittee to discuss the appearance of the Times article. Harrington said he would be happy to do so at Mr. Nedzi's convenience, offering to meet with the subcommittee that day if he wished. The subcommittee finally met in executive session on September 25, with Harrington as the only witness. The issue raised was House Rule XI, Section 27(o), which says that no evidence or testimony taken in executive sessions may be released or used in public sessions without the consent of the committee. A further issue was the pledge Harrington had to sign in order to read the material, which said that he would abide by the rules of the committee. Specifically, Point 9 of that pledge stated that classified information would not be divulged to any unauthorized person. During the lengthy exchange -- a transcript of which has since been released to the public -- Harrington argued that a distinction exists between true concern for the national security and the use of the classification process to cover up unprincipled or criminal behavior.

On the following day, Harrington wrote to Mr. Nedzi renewing a request that the transcript of the session they had just completed be made available to him when it was prepared. The letter was never answered, and Harrington was given to understand that the Armed Services Committee had decided to drop the matter.

During the winter and spring of 1975, Harrington sent a number of letters to the Armed Services Committee, and to Mr. Nedzi in particular, asking for information related to a variety of CIA activities. None of these letters was answered and none of the information was provided.

On June 5, a controversy developed within the House Select Committee on Intelligence -- of which Harrington is a member -- with regard to Mr. Nedzi's continuation as Chairman. The immediate origin of the dispute was an article appearing in the New York Times pointing to Mr. Nedzi's knowledge of CIA political assassination schemes and his inaction despite that knowledge. The Democratic members found that they had serious problems with Mr. Nedzi's continuation as Chairman, and that evening they met with the Speaker.

Significantly, on that same day, June 5, the House Armed Services Committee put out a notice of a meeting to be held on June 10. On June 9, the committee put out another notice which had one item added to the agenda of the June 10 meeting: problems that the committee was having with regard to the handling of material gathered in executive session. In neither case did the notices mention Harrington.

Armed Services then met on June 10 and, at some point near noon, went into executive session and passed a resolution offered by Mr. Ichord which read as follows:

"I move that the Chair be instructed to direct a formal request to the Committee on Standards of Official

Conduct requesting guidance from that Committee as to the criteria which should apply for future access by Members of Congress to testimony received by the Committee in executive session and classified information provided the Committee and maintained in the Committee files.

"Further, I move that pending an official response from the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to the Committee request, Congressman Harrington be denied access to any Committee files or classified information maintained therein because of his previous refusal to honor House and Committee Rules regarding material received by the Committee in executive session."

Because the committee did not have a quorum present when it passed this measure, Armed Services met again on June 16, the day when Mr. Nedzi's resignation as Select Committee chairman was scheduled for House consideration. In a highly publicized open session, the committee voted again (16 to 13) in favor of the Ichord motion. Harrington, who attended the meeting, was not allowed to speak.

The Ichord motion stands in apparent violation of House Rule XI, 2(e) (2), which gives every Member of the House of Representatives access to the records of all House committees. There has been some controversy as to the specific interpretation of that Rule as far as information gathered in executive session is concerned, since it is possible for a committee of the House to exclude from executive session Representatives who are not members of the committee. But the Parliamentarian has indicated that this does not entail the power to exclude House Members from classified files; and at any rate, the Ichord motion refers the question to the wrong committee and also denies Harrington access to files containing information not gathered in executive session.

The narrowly defined parliamentary questions are: 1) does the Committee on Armed Services have the power to deny anyone his privileges as a Member of the House; 2) is it possible for the House or any committee of the House to take punitive action in the 94th Congress against a Member for actions taken in a previous Congress; and 3) is it proper to refer this issue to the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, a committee which reviews the conduct of House Members but does not interpret the rules of the Armed Services Committee or the rules of the House as a whole.

The broader and more important issue, as Harrington sees it, is the failure of effective oversight by the Congress -- a failure that has amounted to complicity in the cover-up of official wrongdoing. The problem cannot be overcome, he believes, until the Congress resolves this fundamental question: Which takes precedence -- an agreement to abide by rules of secrecy or one's obligation to report improper and illegal acts to one's colleagues and other appropriate authorities? Harrington contends that the enforcement of a secrecy agreement for the purpose of covering up illegal acts is itself illegal.

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MICHAEL J. HARRINGTON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
U.S. POLICY TOWARD CHILE:
SOME MEMORABLE QUOTATIONS*

"I don't see why we need to stand by and watch a country go Communist due to the irresponsibility of its own people."

-- Henry Kissinger, June 1970

". . . we are prepared to have the kind of relationship with with the Chilean government that it is prepared to have with us."

-- President Nixon, February 1971

"(The U.S. government) financed no candidates, no political parties before or after the September 8 or September 4 (elections in 1970)."

-- Charles Meyer, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, March 1973

"The United States did not seek to pressure, subvert, influence a single member of the Chilean Congress (which confirmed Allende) at any time in my entire four years."

-- Edward Korry, U.S. Ambassador to Chile (1967-1971), March 1973

". . . we had nothing to do with the political destabilization in Chile, the U.S. government had nothing to do with it."

-- Harry Schlaudeman, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Chile (1969-1973), June 1974

". . . the United States government, the Central Intelligence Agency, had no role in the overthrow of the regime in Chile."

-- James Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense, June 1974

"The CIA had nothing to do with the coup, to the best of my knowledge and belief."

-- Henry Kissinger, September 1973

"There is no doubt in my mind, our government had no involvement in any way whatsoever in the coup itself."

-- President Ford, September 1974

*Source: James Petras and Morris Morley, The United States and Chile (1975).

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Legislative Counsel
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EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

8 July 1975

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

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OFFICER'S
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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Director

STATINTL

[] of this office sat in on Congressman Harrington's news conference covering his response to the Armed Services Committee action denying him further access to Committee documents. Apparently newsmen peppered him with a question of what his position that a Congressman had the duty to release secret testimony of "illegal actions" meant in terms of his Select Committee membership, i.e., would he release on his own anything he felt was illegal that came to his attention during House Select Committee hearings? He managed to escape a direct answer and had newsmen shaking their heads at his evasiveness. Attached are the news releases distributed at the news conference.

George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel

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