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OLC 76-0484

24 February 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Final Mark-up Session of the Senate Government  
Operations Committee on the Issue of Congressional Oversight

1. Today I attended the final mark-up session of the Senate Government Operations Committee on the question of congressional oversight of intelligence agencies. Senators present were:

Senator Abraham Ribicoff (D., Conn.)  
Senator Charles Percy (R., Ill.)  
Senator William Roth (R., Del.)  
Senator Lowell Weicker (R., Conn.)  
Senator John Glenn (D., Ohio)  
Senator Sam Nunn (D., Ga.)  
Senator Lawton Chiles (D., Fla.)

At the conclusion of the session, the Committee voted 12-0 (including several proxy votes) to report a resolution establishing a new Committee on Intelligence Activities.

Significant matters of the Committee discussion today include the following:

(1) At the Agency's request, Senator Percy introduced an amendment which would require staff employees of the new Committee to agree "in writing" to be bound by the rules of the Senate regarding disclosure. This amendment passed with little debate.

(2) Senator Percy also brought up a proposal to amend Section 662 of the Foreign Assistance Act to provide that reports on covert action be provided to the "Committee on Intelligence Activities and Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and appropriate committees of the House of Representatives." The Agency had also requested this course of action. However, Senator Ribicoff said the Committee's business was strictly the resolution establishing a new standing committee and the Committee could not consider such a bill that day. Senator Percy then announced his intention to introduce such a bill, and Senator Ribicoff said he would be happy to co-sponsor it.

or expulsion from the Senate. Although these rules apply only to members of the Committee on Intelligence Activities, the Committee agreed to accompany its resolution with a letter to the Rules Committee urging the Rules Committee to make this section applicable to all members of the Senate who gain access to intelligence information.



Assistant Legislative Counsel

cc:  
Mr. Warner



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