

*joint weekly comm. Hees*

CONFIDENTIAL

Maury Memo for the Record, 10 June 1969, Subj: Ground Rules for Briefing  
Indiv. Members of Cong on Sensitive Matters

Russell has consulted w/ Sens Mansfield and Dirksen. As a result of this conference, it was agreed that "henceforth any of our briefings of indiv. senators on sensitive and controversial matters such as Sov. strategic weapons should first be cleared personally w/ Senator "Russell."

OLC Journal, 10 June 1969

"it was our procedure to ask any senator requesting a briefing of this nature [on sensitive matters] to ~~xx~~ first take the matter up w/ Senator Russell."

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<sup>Job</sup>  
~~177~~ 71-364, box 6 has much info on  
cong. proposals for jt. oversight committee

There is a useful memo for DCI, 10 Apr. '56, from S  
G. Roger in folder: 1955-1956 that I should dig up

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SECRET

2 Nov 1955 -- Cong. Celler said he planned to introduce a bill similar to Mansfields. He stated that such a jt. comm would "in no way hamper or interfere w/ the vital and necessary work" of CIA which "has carte blanche authority to act as it sees fit." He stated that this situation not consistent w/ our democratic principles and that Cong "should know how the funds it has appropriated to this Agency are being expended if for no other reason than to evaluate the worth of the taxpayers' investment in this Agency." He said his proposal "should be no reflection or intimation that there is anything wrong or at fault w/ that Agency. I merely believe that the Cong should have access to all the facts consistent w/ nat. security if it is to legislate wisely."

[chk Cong Rec for this]

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29 Dec 1955 -- lunch w/ Albert Westphal, staff member of House ForAffComm. He feels that a jt. comm. on intell might be useful, and that congressmen who have introduced resolutions for the creation of jt comms, such as Judd and Zablocke, are motivated in large part by desire to protect CIA in somewhst the same manner that Jt Comm on At E has been able to protect the Executive Branch on sensitive matters in that field. Westphal says Judd and Zablocki are good firends of CIA and would undoubtedly rise to its defense on the Floor if the occasion demanded.

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16 July 1953 -- [in midst of McCarthy's threats to investigate CIA, and one week after McCarthy subcomm had subpoenaed WLP] Kirkpartick has informed us that serious consideration being given to appointment of a 6-man ad hoc jt. congressional comm to examine CIA activities. V.P. Nixon favors this stepp, but there is gen. agreement that there should not be a permanent comm. appointed

*20 July 53 - Sen. Mansfield introduces con. res. to establish 18-person  
jt. cong. comm. on Cen. intell.*

22 July 1953 -- Schroeder of staff of Senate Immigration Subcomm, advised us to take careful steps to bottle up Mansfield's bill, as he felt that such a comm would certainly result in serious security leaks. He pted out that while the bill had been introduced by a Demo, McCarthy and others would tend to push it covertly from the Repub. side in order to tie CIA down.

24 July -- in the House, Kelly and Zablocki have introduced bills to creat a jt comm on intell matters. These resolutions somwshat broader than the ones previously introduced in that they call for continued review of CIA

*OVER*

28 July 1953 - Sen. Saltmire tells DCI there will  
be no action this yr. on any resolution to estab. a J.F.  
Cong. Comm. on Central intell.

SECRET

16 Sept 1953 -- lunched w/ Bryce Harlow, formerly chief clerk of House ArmSerComm and now on W.H. legislative staff. He expressed very strong opposition to a jt. cong. comm. on intell. as an invasion of the constitutional powers of the Pres and as violating the concept of the separation of powers. (He also feels Jt Comm on Atomic E is unconstitutional.) He worries that if such a comm. existed, we would have to lay before it all our operational plans prior to undertaking. It is his opinion that testimony on CIA should be held to a minimum and that the Pres should, if necessary, issue a directive to that effect.

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SECRET

7 Jan 1953

The DCI has reported to the Inspector Gen. our draft of proposed legislation for a jt. congressional comm on intell. (meaning unclear)

Pforz. believed no use could be served by such a comm which would outweigh its detriments. Refers to the possibility of hostile congressmen getting on the comm and the impossibility of disestablishing it. Thinks that subcomms of the ArmSer Comm could easily be established to handle intell matters.

Mr. Hedden concurs w/ this and will recommend such to DCI

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H. Con. Res. 168--July 23, 1953--submitted by Mrs. Kelly of NY--referred to Rules Comm  
--to establish a Jt. Comm on Intell matters, composed of 9 senators and nine representatives

S. Con. Res. 69--Mar 10, 1954--submitted by Mansfield, with 20 other co-sponsors--referred to Rules Comm  
--to estab. a Jt. Comm on Central Intell, composed of 5 members of each House

H. Con. Res. 167 and 169, July 21 and 23, 1953, submitted respectively by Patterson and Zablocki, both referred to Rules Comm--both called by estab. of Jt Comm on Intell.

H. Con. Res. 217--March 22, 1954--submitted by Mr. Brownson--referred to Rules--called by estab. of Jt. Comm on Central Intell.

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H. Con. Res. 186, April 21, 1948--offered by Mr. Devitt  
calling for the establishment of a Jt. Comm on Intell,  
consisting of 9 members of each House  
referred to Rules Comm--I don't know what happened next.

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Apr 21, 1948--in wake of Bogota inquiry. Rep. Edward J. Devitt submits H. Con. Res. 186 (Establishing a Jt. Comm on Intell) which was referred to Rules Comm

UNCLASSIFIED

Concern demonstrated from the 1st moment the CIA proposed that it might not be controllable. As early as 1948, members of Congress were calling for a jt. cong. committee to serve as watchdog.

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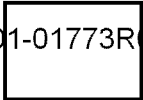
in response to a request by SEenate Rules Comm in 1954,  
DCI wrote an unclassified letter of 30 April 1954 to  
Mr. Bookwalter, Chief Clerk of Rules, re CIA opinion  
on proposed jt. comms. of intell

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21 Jan 1955 -- I am told by chief clerk of House ArmSERComm that chairman Vinson is unalterably opposed to a jt comm on Central Intell, that Vinson has so informed Speaker Rayburn, that the Speaker is also opposed and does not propose to let the bill come out of the Rules Comm

this same note also mentions that the CIA subcomm of the House ArmServ Comm will meet soon



10003004-5, intell

UNCL ASS.

a proposal for a jt. cong. intell. comm. introduced in the House in '48, but received little discussion

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SECRET

*following Bay Pigeon*  
in 1961, <sup>^</sup>House Rules Committee conducted hearings to determine whether a jt. committee resolution should be sent to the House floor.

Members of the CIA subcommittee of House Armed Serv Comm, including chairman Kilday, testified vs. resolution, arguing that cong. supervision of CIA fully adequate and noting that Agency had made 46 appearances before various cong. comm. during past 2 yrs. Agency officers, he added, always responded fully and candidly to their questioners (congressional) Rules Committee let the resolutuon die.

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Nov 1960, NSC reviews its position on this issue and decided that its 1956 decision, to oppose creation of a jt. comm., still valid.

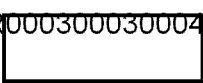
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not all suggestions for a jt. watchdog comm are hostile or imply that Agency cannot be trusted to run its own affairs. Some in Cong see such a committee as an aid to the Agency in cong. and public relations. It could defend the Agency vs. unwarranted attacks and stave off bothersome Qs from the unwitting

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1961-- Eugene McCarthy attempts to revive idea of jt. [ I think] oversight but fails to elicit much attention--this in response to Bay of Pigs.

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of the Nat Sec Act of 1947  
Sec. 102 (d) (3) provides that the DCI should be resp. for  
protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized  
disclosure.

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re liaison relationships w/ for. intell. services: some liaison services have been apprehensive abt. CIA's relationship w/ Cong even under the system in effect thru 1966. But Warner seems to indicate this has not been a major prob.

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*U.S. in general has a reputation in foreign circles of being unable to keep a secret*

SECRET

One of the more troubling reservations abt the establishment of a jt. cong. comm. revolves around not the congressmen themselves, but the staff of such a jt. comm. The staff of the present subcommittees have heavy resp in areas unrelated to intell, and can only devote a small portion of their energies to intell. matters. The staff of a jt. comm, on the ohter hand, even if it were only very small, could be expected to become very knowledgeable abt CIA matters This could create a security prob becuz staff members would not be subj. to Agency security discipline. Equally troubling, they would be in a position to ask embarrassing Qs and probe more deply into untrasensitive matters

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bet 1947 and 1967, more than 200 resolutions introduced in Senate alone calling for stricter cong. surveillance of the intell. community. An even larger no. were introduced in the House.

Altho easily beaten back, these demands nontheless indicate widespread sense of uneasiness abt the relative autonomy of the CIA, even among it s friends and those disposed to leave the system of oversight as it was.

Mansfield-type proposals introduced in every Cong since 1956.

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AS OF 1966, CIA legis counsel freely admits that Jt Comm on Atomic Energy has an excellent record re avoiding leaks of classified info. It also maintains security procedures and physical security up to the standards prescribed by AEC.

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again writing in 1966, Warner says there have been no unauthorized disclosures from the 4 CIA subcommittees.

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in Craft of Intelligence (p. 241), Dulles writes of the 4 cong. CIA subcommittees: "secrets can be kept and the needs of our legislative bodies met. In fact, I do not know of a single case of indiscretion that has resulted from telling these committees the most intimate details of CIA activities."

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USUALLY, those advocating a watchdog committee in Cong envision it acting w/ respect to intelligence in much the same fashion the Jt. Committee on Atomic Energy does for the atomic energy program.

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unfortunately for those advocating a jt. comm, their calls along these lines imply that ~~SENEXRUSSE~~ senior senators and representatives not adequately fulfilling their resp. This only makes the old-line more resistant to any change.

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