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NEWS-BULLET (S/W)

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BY HARRY KELLY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, June 11 (AP)—Democratic leader Mike Mansfield said today he is "making no promises" in his efforts to avert a Senate showdown over supervision of U.S. cloak-and-dagger activities.

Mansfield said President Johnson indicated he would not enter the dispute over the Central Intelligence Agency that pits against one another two of the Senate's top committee chairmen--Richard B. Russell of Armed Services and J.W. Fulbright of Foreign Relations.

Mansfield, acting as mediator, said if a compromise isn't struck fairly soon "we'll have to take it to the floor and battle it out."

But this, he said, would not be before late next week and would probably be later.

To avoid a heated public debate on the delicate issues involving U.S. intelligence and espionage, Mansfield persuaded both sides to postpone a showdown scheduled June 11 to try to work out a compromise.

Fulbright held off on a resolution, approved by his committee, that would expand the present CIA supervisory panel by adding three Foreign Relations Committee members to it.

This was opposed by the present seven-man CIA panel, made up of veteran members of the Armed Services and Appropriations committees, and headed by Russell. Their chief arguments have been that the present setup is adequate, and that enlargement of the watchdog committee would increase the danger of leaks.

Mansfield said he would "like to see the Foreign Relations Committee get some kind of representation" in overseeing the CIA. "While the CIA does not make foreign policy," Mansfield said, "it is without question involved in foreign policy."

Mansfield said because of this he feels the Foreign Relations Committee should have a role in supervising CIA activities.

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One suggested compromise would be for the Foreign Relations Committee to set up its own CIA subcommittee with the president instructing the CIA to report to it as fully as it does to Russell's group.

Mansfield said he appraised Johnson of the situation but did not seek any kind of commitment from him. The president, he said, indicated the dispute is something the Senate should work out.

Mansfield said he wants to keep the issue from flaring into public debate because "it's possible that things might be said that wouldn't help the agency or the CIA and wouldn't help the Senate."

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