

# HOUSE IS TOLD THAT LOOSE TALK IS WRECKING U.S. INTELLIGENCE

**'Immaturity, Indiscretion Making Us Laughing Stock of World,' Rep. Mahon of Texas Says**

WASHINGTON, March 7 (UPI) — Representative George H. Mahon (Dem.), Texas, said today that loose talk in Congress and by the Administration is wrecking United States intelligence efforts.

"There has been talk of an intelligence gap," Mahon told his colleagues. "There is an intelligence gap. The gap is in the intelligence of those who are daily revealing the secrets of the intelligence operations of the United States Government . . .

"Our immaturity and indiscretion in these constant disclosures is making us the laughing stock of the world.

"Officials in Moscow, Peking and Havana must applaud our stupidity in announcing publicly facts which they would gladly spend huge sums of money endeavoring to obtain."

### Key Man in Group

Mahon is chairman of an appropriations subcommittee handling the defense budget. As such he is also a key man on a special subcommittee dealing with intelligence matters.

Mahon previously had kept out of the squabble over Republican charges that the Administration had bungled its handling of the Cuban missile crisis.

But in a stern lecture to the House today, he assailed unidentified persons in both parties, in Congress and in the executive branch. He said they either made critical statements on matters which should never be discussed in public or allowed themselves to be goaded into unwise disclosures by way of reply.

"Mr. Speaker, I shall ask the President, the Vice President and the Speaker of the House to undertake to co-ordinate a course of action for the purpose of halting the rapid erosion of our national intelligence effort,"

Mahon said.  
"The present situation is outrageous and intolerable."