

*Pers. Saltonstall, Swerth*

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(CIA)

WASHINGTON--SEN. LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, CITING THE RECENT ATTEMPT TO EXPAND THE CONGRESSIONAL WATCH OVER CIA ACTIVITIES, TODAY PROPOSED A CHANGE IN RULES TO GUARD THE JURISDICTION OF SENATE COMMITTEES.

THE MASSACHUSETTS LAWMAKER IS THE TOP-RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES. AS SUCH HE IS A MEMBER OF THE GROUP WHICH NOW RIDES HERD ON ACTIVITIES OF THE BIG SPY AGENCY.

HE PROPOSED A RULES CHANGE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THAT ALL ORIGINAL BILLS OR RESOLUTIONS BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE WHICH HAS JURISDICTION OVER THE SUBJECT MATTER. WHEN THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE RECENTLY SOUGHT A ROLE IN SUPERVISING CIA IT APPROVED ITS OWN RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE IT. THE RESOLUTION WAS OPPOSED BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE.

IN THAT CONTROVERSY, EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE SENATE VOTED 61 TO 28 TO REFER THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE PROPOSAL TO THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. SALTONSTALL SAID THE PRECEDENT OF A SENATE VOTE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAND, AND URGED THAT THE QUESTION BE ANSWERED IN THE RULE BOOK.

"IF A COMMITTEE IS ALLOWED TO EXTEND ITS JURISDICTION INTO AREAS TRADITIONALLY WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF OTHER COMMITTEES, ALL SUBJECTS MAY BE 'UP FOR GRABS' SO TO SPEAK," SAID SALTONSTALL IN PREPARED REMARKS. HE SAID ONE COMMITTEE COULD INTRUDE ON THE JURISDICTION OF ANOTHER WITHOUT HEARINGS AND WITHOUT ANY CHANGE TO CONSIDER THE VIEWS OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH "TRADITIONALLY" HELD JURISDICTION.

SUPPORTERS OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE'S CIA PLAN, ORIGINALLY SPONSORED BY SEN. EUGENE J. MCCARTHY, D-MINN., HAVE INDICATED THEY MAKE ANOTHER DRIVE FOR IT BEFORE CONGRESS ADJOURNS. INTRODUCTION OF THE SALTONSTALL PROPOSAL COULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON THAT STRATEGY.

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