

THE CIA

Rising Criticism Of the Leaks

Wisconsin Republican Robert Kas-
 ten could take no more. Before his col-
 leagues on the House Intelligence Com-
 mittee last week, he angrily addressed
 Chairman Otis Pike, a Democrat from
 New York. "Do something," he de-
 manded, to stanch the leaks that were
 discrediting the committee with its
 friends in Congress as well as its foes in
 the Administration. With an irate glare,
 Pike shot back: "What do you recom-
 mend? Lie detector tests? I do not know
 where the leaks have come from."

Pike's testy confession of helpless-
 ness only served to intensify the grow-
 ing backlash in Congress against his
 committee's six-month investigation of
 the CIA, FBI and other U.S. intelligence
 agencies. Week after week, confidential
 information gathered by the commit-
 tee's investigators had wound up on the
 front pages of U.S. newspapers. Last
 week the leaks turned into what out-
 going CIA Director William Colby an-
 grily called "the bursting of the dam."
 The committee's entire final report was
 given to newsmen. The leaked report
 contained little that had not been dis-
 closed, and the revelations tended to be
 relatively minor. Among them:

► In the late 1950s, at the CIA's re-
 quest, Robert Maheu, a former top aide
 to Billionaire Howard Hughes, supplied
 King Hussein of Jordan and other for-
 eign leaders with female companions.
 Maheu was also the go-between the CIA
 used to recruit two high-ranking Mafia
 members in an attempt to assassinate
 Cuban Dictator Fidel Castro.



COLBY AT PRESS CONFERENCE
 The dam burst.

► Despite CIA objections, Graham
 A. Martin, then U.S. Ambassador to It-
 aly, secretly paid \$800,000 in 1972 to
 Vito Miceli, a right-wing general who
 headed Italy's military intelligence
 agency. The money was to demonstrate
 U.S. support of Italian anti-Commun-
 ists. According to a story in Turin's *La
 Stampa*, the \$800,000 for Miceli was
 small potatoes: the paper claimed that
 one of its reporters had obtained secret
 documents from Pike's committee show-
 ing that the CIA had given Italian
 political parties \$74 million from
 1948 to 1972.

► In a futile effort to keep the
 U.S. from cutting off secret arms
 aid, Kurdish General Mustafa
 Barzani gave three valuable Ori-
 ental rugs and a gold and pearl
 necklace to Secretary of State
 Henry Kissinger and Wife Nancy
 when they were married in 1974.
 Brent Scowcroft, the President's
 national security adviser, said that
 actually one rug and one necklace
 had been received and both had
 been promptly turned over to the
 White House, as required by law.

► Although he was a member
 of a Senate subcommittee that was
 to monitor CIA activities, Demo-
 cratic Senator Henry Jackson of
 Washington advised the agency in
 1973 on how to handle another
 Senate subcommittee's probe of
 CIA ties in Chile with ITT Corp.
 Jackson retorted that he was
 asked only for procedural advice.

The committee concluded
 that the CIA has been operating so se-
 cretly as to be beyond the control of Con-
 gress and the Executive. Colby held a
 press conference—the day before the
 Senate confirmed former G.O.P. Na-
 tional Chairman George Bush as his suc-
 cessor by a 64-to-27 vote. Colby de-
 nounced the charge of excessive secrecy
 as an "outrageous calumny." The report,
 he said, was "a disservice to our nation,
 giving a thoroughly wrong impression of
 American intelligence."

Continued

What most outraged the Administration, however, was that the committee had violated an agreement with President Ford. In exchange for secret documents about covert CIA activities in Italy, Angola and Iraq, as well as the "Hollystone" project. (involving U.S. subs edging close to Soviet shores to monitor missile launchings), the committee had promised it would not disclose any details if Ford decided that their release would jeopardize national security. Then the committee voted 9 to 4 to renege on the promise, reasoning that no one in the Executive Branch had the right to censor a report from a congressional committee.

As Ford made one last attempt to get the committee to stick to its original pledge, the report was leaked. Although Pike insisted that the source of the leak was not known, committee investigators told TIME that members of the committee's staff were responsible.

Tough Standards. Ford insisted he had been doublecrossed. In the House, a dozen Republicans rose to protest the committee's bad faith. North Carolina's James Martin was so furious he sputtered: "Holy mackerel, Mr. Speaker!" The senior Republican on the Pike committee, Robert McClory of Illinois, protested: "What agency do you think will provide us information if it thinks we cannot be trusted?"

Many Democrats found that argument persuasive, and the House voted 246 to 124 to require the Pike committee to delete the disputed material before formally issuing its report. The rebuke came too late, since the sensitive information has already been disclosed. The dispute will probably prompt Congress to adopt tougher standards on secrecy than might otherwise have been the case. For example, Tennessee Republican Senator William Brock has sponsored legislation that would punish congressional staff members with fines of up to \$100,000 and jail terms of up to 20 years for leaking secret information.

Meanwhile the much criticized CIA received some strong support from President Ford, who spoke at the ceremonies installing Bush as new director of the agency. While saying that the CIA must be prevented from exceeding its authority, Ford declared: "We cannot improve this agency by destroying it. Let me assure you I have no intention of seeing this intelligence community dismantled and its operations paralyzed or effectively undermined."