

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

July 15, 1971

(16)

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: TOM LATIMER

SUBJECT: Senator Cooper's Amendment to the National Security Act of 1947

You might be interested in the attached pages from the July 7, 1971 Congressional Record, which were called to my attention by Director Helms. Senator Cooper has submitted an amendment to the National Security Act of 1947 which would make it the duty of the Central Intelligence Agency "to inform fully and currently by means of regular and special reports the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Relations of the Senate regarding intelligence information collected by the Agency."

- The key element here is that the members of those committees would be placed on virtually the same footing as the President of the United States in regard to receiving the latest intelligence estimates and analyses.

To emphasize this point, Senator Symington noted that under the law, the Atomic Energy Commission has the responsibility of informing the Joint Atomic Energy Committee of any new developments in that field. The Committee does not have to ask for information, it is volunteered.

- Senator Symington sees the Cooper amendment as accomplishing the same thing for all intelligence reporting.
- Adoption of the Cooper amendment would also mean that for the first time members of Congress would be receiving actual texts of intelligence estimates and reports.
- The Director of Central Intelligence has briefed the Committees concerned in Senator Cooper's amendment when asked but he does not provide them with the actual texts of intelligence estimates and reports.

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It would also enable the Committees of the House and Senate to which intelligence information was made available by CIA to, in turn, on their own authority release such information to any member of the Congress who requests such information and to any staff member or employee of the Congress designated by a member to have access to such information.

-- In the case of congressional staff employees, experience indicates that it would prove extremely difficult, if not impossible, to adequately control leaks to the press or to take effective administrative or legal action once such leaks occurred.

Senators Symington, Mathias, Fulbright and Javits spoke on behalf of the Cooper Amendment.