

Special Report:

Congress Facing Showdown on Police State

by B. Barré

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 17 (IPS) —A constitutional crisis and a diversionary extravaganza by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is the premise for Rockefeller's moves to institute sweeping gestapo reorganization of the intelligence community and domestic police state "reforms." The scene is reminiscent of the 1961 scapegoat trial of Adolph Eichmann.

Operation Eichmann

As Eichmann was made the convenient focal point of anti-Nazi rage to cover Rockefeller's active and wide-ranging Latin American Nazi network, so Senator Frank Church staged televised hearings yesterday spotlighting the CIA's failure to carry out a Presidential order to destroy two poison canisters. With toy dart pistols waving, one-time OSS operative Church drew attention away from the Rockefeller-Kissinger-National Security Council international deployment of terrorists and dirty trick experts. That story broke Monday in a front-page Washington Star News article on former government agent Roy Frankhauser.

The widely publicized Church circus feeds the debate on the reformation of the command and control structure of the CIA. The debate paves the way for the unconstitutional "reforms" recommended by the Rockefeller and Murphy Commissions earlier this year. Last weekend, both Ford and Rockefeller revealed they were studying how to administratively implement such changes.

Despite Church's best efforts to cover for Rockefeller, a document released

by his committee yesterday showed that the CIA had used the New York City subway system for a dry-run covert attack using simulated poison gas—Rockefeller's real target is the domestic population!

Ford Defies Subpoena

With Church holding center stage yesterday, President Ford announced his intention to defy a subpoena ordering him to turn over classified documents on the Vietnam war to the House Select Committee on Intelligence. Ford's reason: the Committee's refusal to change its operating procedures.

Committee chairman Otis Pike (D-NY) remarked, after Ford's news conference, that he would oppose any compromise on Congressional rights to both declassify material classified by the executive branch and subpoena and obtain Presidential documents. Pike told a reporter that "it will be my recommendation that we...go into court" if Ford fails to turn over the documents today. Pike is refusing to relinquish classified documents in the Committee's possession as per Ford's order last week.

The most serious constitutional confrontation between the legislative and executive branches since President Nixon refused to turn over documents and tapes subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate and the House Judiciary Committees is being used by the Rockefeller Administration to revive police-state legislation via passage of the notorious Senate Bill 1 (S.1). At yesterday's press conference, Ford unveiled the Rockefeller strategy: "I think it is fair to point out...that some of the (classified) material (released by

the Committee) is specifically protected by law, and if a private citizen were to release that information involving communications intelligence, it would be a criminal—a serious criminal offense."

"I am not saying that the Congress has violated a criminal law, or this committee has done so. I only use that as an illustration."

Ford stopped short of actually accusing Congress of a criminal action in its release of four unauthorized words from a classified document last week. The import of his threatening remarks was made clear by the recent flurry of activity by Rockefeller agents in Congress. IPS learned today that S.1 will be reported out of a Senate subcommittee to the full Judiciary Committee in the next two weeks. S.1 specifically provides for strict penalties to citizens, public officials, and press personnel who make public information or crimes related to national security. The bill restores the Smith Act, making it a crime to advocate revolutionary change, defines a riot as an "assemblage of five persons" which endangers "property," revives laws made inoperative by the courts, and imposes restrictions not dreamed of during the psychotic McCarthy era.

Rockefeller enforcer Sen. Hugh Scott (R-Pa.), an ardent supporter of the bill, yesterday agreed to grease the legislative machinery for passage of S.1 by endorsing a set of "liberalizing" amendments sponsored by "liberal" colleague Birch Bayh (D-Ind.). These amendments are designed to draw Congress into a debate on whether to abolish 90 percent or 95 percent of the constitution.