

BUSINESS MEETING: V & E

Thursday, March 7, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives,
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 9:04 a.m., in Room HVC-304, Capitol Visitor Center, the Honorable Adam Schiff (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Schiff, Himes, Carson, Speier, Quigley, Swalwell, Castro, Heck, Maloney, Krishnamoorthi, Nunes, Conaway, Turner, Wenstrup, Stewart, and Crawford.

THE CHAIRMAN: The committee will come to order. Without objection, the chair is authorized to declare a recess at any time.

Our item for business today is the adoption of the committee's views and estimates on the budget for fiscal year 2020. As a reminder, we are now in open session, so discussion will be limited to unclassified matters. It is my intention that the business meeting will be conducted entirely in open session. Should members desire to engage in classified discussion of the views and estimates letter, we can turn to the closed session before concluding the meeting.

As members know, House Rule X, clause 11 requires HPSCI, upon request of the Budget Committee, to submit views and estimates for that committee to consider in connection with the annual budget resolution. The specifics of our budget and policy views must, of necessity, remain classified. For that reason, the committee is highly constrained in what it can say in an unclassified fashion to the Budget Committee.

Nevertheless, you will see that the draft letter before you expresses concern that Intelligence Committee operations will be impeded and our national security jeopardized if the Intelligence Community is funded for fiscal year 2020 at the level set forth in current law.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 provided needed relief from sequestration for fiscal years 2018 and 2019, but not for 2020. Our letter urges our colleagues to support similar budgetary relief for the next fiscal year. As articulated in the letter, our country faces a constantly evolving threat landscape. The rapid development of emerging technologies has the potential to dramatically alter the Intelligence Community's operating environment.

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These changes create risks and opportunities for the United States collectors and analysts. Similarly, the traditional threats faced by the community remain, from counterterrorism to counter proliferation to nation-state adversaries. The Intelligence Community must be prepared to understand and address the full suite of threats faced by the United States. Consequently, it is critical to our Nation's security that the Intelligence Community receive the resources it needs.

I will sign the letter, and my understanding is that the contents of the letter are the result of a bipartisan effort amongst the committee staff and members, and I urge my colleagues on the committee to join me in voting for adoption of the views and estimates letter.

I now yield to the ranking member for any statement he may wish to make.

MR. NUNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Next week, the President will submit his fiscal year 2020 budget request to Congress. The committee's oversight work is crucial to ensure that sufficient funds are authorized by Congress for the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of our government. I look forward to the intelligence-related oversight hearings that we will be conducting, urge adoption of the budget views and estimates letter, and yield back the balance of my time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do any other members wish to be heard on the letter?

Hearing none, the question is on adoption of the fiscal year 2020 views and estimates, as drafted. All in favor will say aye. All opposed, no. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the letter is adopted and it will be transmitted to the Budget Committee.

That concludes the business meeting. Can we now bring in the witnesses for the Korea hearing.

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[Whereupon, at 9:07 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]