

a way that left rank-and-file Members at a distinct disadvantage, and left insufficient time to examine many relevant issues. The final draft of the Report -- which is several hundred pages long and highly classified -- was delivered to Members four days before the one and only meeting scheduled for its consideration, when most Members were out of town. There was no debate about the Report, only about the Recommendations. But there was little basis for debate since the product was strictly the work of the JIS -- more like an Inspector General's report than a typical congressional committee report. Throughout the process, rank-and-file Members complained about irregularities. Specific examples include:

- Upon instructions from the Chairmen -- and in violation of SSCI rules -- the JIS often failed to tell Members and staff of important non-compartmented information it discovered in a timely manner.
- Information relating to open hearings -- such as the JIS staff statement and witness statements -- were routinely provided only late on the night before the hearing.
- Committee staff, and sometimes even the staff directors, were often excluded from meetings of the "Big Four," whose decisions were often made without consultation. Members' liaison staff, and, therefore, the Members themselves, were in the dark about these decisions.
- Despite repeated requests, records of JIS interviews with key witnesses conducted in the spring were not made available to committee staff for review until fall, when the final draft report was already in the late drafting stages.
- Over the strong objections of several Members, and key officials of the intelligence community, the "Big Four" scheduled a series of open hearings that sidetracked the ongoing investigation from mid-July to late October.

Here is a representative example of the lack of meaningful rank-and-file input into "Big