

DO SENATORS COLLINS, KING, AND WARNER LIKE BEING SPIED ON?

Over the last few days, I've tracked the accusations and counter-accusations between CIA and the Senate Intelligence Committee.

A number of people have asked why, as a way to end this issue, the Committee doesn't just declassify the entire SSCI Report.

But it's not so simple as that.

It's not clear there are the votes to release the Report.

Recall that when the Committee approved the Report back in 2012, the vote was largely split on party lines, with the exception of John McCain, who voted as an Ex Officio member (as Ranking Member of Senate Armed Services Committee) to release the Report. McCain is no longer SASC Ranking member: Jim Inhofe is, and I'm betting he's not going to vote to release the Report.

There are few other changes in the Committee proper since the report was originally finalized. Martin Heinrich and Angus King have replaced Bill Nelson and Kent Conrad, and Susan Collins and Tom Coburn have replaced Olympia Snowe and Roy Blunt.

And while Heinrich has quickly become one of the better overseers on the Committee, including on torture, it's not actually clear whether King would vote to release the report. Collins, too, has been reported to be undecided (and her vote would be critical to making this a "bipartisan vote," now that McCain doesn't have a vote). There are even hints that Mark Warner wouldn't vote to support its declassification (though he supported its finalization).

And importantly, King and Collins have been reported to be undecided after the time when, in

January, the Committee at least began to suspect they'd been surveilled.

There are, obviously, two different issues (though Saxby Chambliss, at least, sides with CIA on both counts). But there's been little outcry from the swing votes on releasing the underlying report itself.

Update: h/t to JK for the link to the Collins/King report I was not finding.