

Speaker Ryan: Statement on today's Dept. of Justice briefing

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WASHINGTON—House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) released this statement following today's Department of Justice briefing:

"In 1977, the House of Representatives created a permanent intelligence oversight committee to protect the public and our constitutional liberties. That committee is provided by law with access to our most sensitive secrets and charged with protecting from disclosure anything that would harm the security of this nation. Inherent in the committee's work is the responsibility to ask tough questions of the executive branch. That is why we have insisted and will continue to insist on Congress's constitutional right to information necessary for the conduct of oversight.

"I appreciate the Department arranging today's briefing. As always, I cannot and will not comment on a classified session. I look forward to the prompt completion of the intelligence committee's oversight work in this area now that they are getting the cooperation necessary for them to complete their work while protecting sources and methods."