

CIA Asks Hill Unit For Secret Hearing

By James K. Batten
Chicago Daily News Service

The Central Intelligence Agency, in a highly unusual move, has quietly asked the Senate Judiciary Committee to hear its private objections to a bill already reported to the Senate for action.

The bill is designed to safeguard the privacy of Government employes from unwarranted intrusions. Among other things, it would limit the use of lie detector and psychiatric tests by all Federal agencies, including the CIA.

CIA officials, whose identity could not be learned, approached Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), the Judiciary Committee Chairman, and Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) to request a secret hearing on the agency's objections.

Eastland promptly passed along the CIA's request to the other Committee members. He also distributed a letter from Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) opposing an executive session to hear the CIA's case.

Ervin is the principal sponsor of the privacy bill, which was originally slated for Senate debate Friday but was withdrawn from the schedule at the last minute.

Ervin's letter to Eastland warned that recommittal of the bill would "set an unusual precedent." But the North Carolinian said he would be willing to have the CIA testify in a public session.

"I would like to expose before the American people the specious arguments which the Central Intelligence Agency puts forth as reasons for wishing an exemption . . . from the bill," he said.

In an interview, Ervin said he invited the CIA to testify twice during Committee consideration of the bill. On both occasions, according to Ervin, the invitation was declined.

Ervin's original bill pro-

hibited any Federal agency, including the CIA and the equally sensitive National Security Agency, from asking any employe or job applicant about his sex life, his religion or his family relationships as part of a life-detector test.

In an amendment narrowly approved by the Judiciary Committee, the directors of the CIA and the NSA were permitted to authorize such tests in individual cases where national security was clearly at stake.

Some Senators, including Bayh, have considered leading a floor fight to give the CIA and the NSA much broader exemptions from the Ervin bill than those permitted by the Committee.