

SECRECY WARNING IS ISSUED BY LEVI

He Says Some Acts Should
Be Kept From Congress

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (UPI)—Attorney General Edward H. Levi said today that attempts to monitor United States intelligence agencies should not lead to Congressional attempts to manage them.

An American President should keep some secrets from Congress, Mr. Levi said.

He testified before the Senate Committee on Government Operations, which is studying ways to oversee intelligence activities. A major proposal is a joint House-Senate committee to judge final actions.

"Not all secrets are intended merely to save an administration embarrassment," Mr. Levi said.

"There is a question of how far a committee can go in monitoring intelligence operations for legitimate legislative purposes before the tendency develops to attempt to manage them," he said.

In a 27-page statement, Mr. Levi traced the separation of powers, executive privilege and risks of "leaks" of secrets damaging to national security.

He said that foreign policy and national defense "are among the most essential demands upon our Government."

"Errors in such decisions carry the potential for immediate and severe consequences both for ourselves and for our friends abroad," he said. "How our intelligence apparatus is constructed, then, is literally a vital question."

Mr. Levi said there was a risk that with a further increase in oversight, as both Senate and House intelligence committees suggest, Congress might try to manage the C.I.A., the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Defense Intelligence Agency and other groups.

"Whatever mechanisms are devised for Congressional intelligence oversight," he said, "they must leave to the executive such discretion as the Constitution places in his office and the ability to act within his sphere without unwarranted and debilitating restraints."

Mr. Levi criticized as "destructive and debilitating" yes-



Associated Press

Attorney General Edward H. Levi appearing before Senate panel yesterday.

terday's recommendation by Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, to modify the special Watergate prosecutor's office to investigate and prosecute crimes committed by United States intelligence agencies.

"I think it's a call for a kind of a second Attorney General," he went on. "There's no reason to believe that the Department of Justice in the normal course cannot effectively handle violations of the law"