Sen. Russell Dropping Armed Services Post

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Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) is dropping his chairmanship of the Senate Armed Services Committee to succeed retiring Sen. Carl Hayden (D-Ariz.) as Appropriations Committee chairman, a spokesman for the veteran Georgia lawmaker said yesterday.

Sen. John C. Stennis (D-Miss.) will succeed Russell as Armed Services chairman.

Russell's office said the Senator disclosed his intention following an Appropriations Committee farewell ceremony Friday for Hayden, 91, who is retiring after 41 years in the Senate.

Russell was second to Hayden in committee seniority and thus had the option of moving up. But to do so, he had to give up the top spot on the Armed Services Committee, which he has headed for more than 15 years.

If Russell had turned down the Appropriations chairmanship, next in line would have been Sen. Allen Ellender (D-La.).