

Justice Dept. to Get Senate Helms Data

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The Senate intelligence committee voted yesterday to turn over some of its files immediately to Justice Department attorneys investigating possible criminal charges against former CIA Director Richard M. Helms and other officials.

The files contain information about a 1971 break-in at the office of a former Central Intelligence Agency employee, possible perjury by Helms in connection with covert operations in Chile and an alleged plot to murder columnist Jack Anderson, said committee Chairman Frank Church (D-Idaho).

The committee voted to delay turning over its files on the CIA's 20-year mail-opening program and its files on electronic eavesdropping by the National Security Agency, Church said. He said those files will be given to Justice when the committee goes out of business at the end of next month.

A committee vote was scheduled later in the day on whether to call singer Frank Sinatra as a witness on another matter, but Church said, "I personally have yet to be shown any reason to call him."

A committee spokesman said Thursday the staff would recommend against calling Sinatra. "The feeling of the staff is that he would not add to information or knowledge about (CIA) plots against (Cuba's Fidel) Castro," the spokesman said.

Justice Department officials previously have confirmed that Helms and two other officials, one formerly with the CIA and the other still on the government payroll, are under investigation in connection with the 1971 break-in at a photographer's studio in Fairfax City, Va.

It was also known that the department was considering

possible perjury charges against Helms.

The alleged plot against Anderson has been under investigation by the Watergate special prosecutor's office since The Washington Post reported that former CIA agent E. Howard Hunt Jr. had once told associates he had been ordered by the White House to kill the columnist.

Hunt, now serving a prison term for his role in the Watergate break-in, has since denied the report, saying instead that he was ordered to administer a behavior-influencing drug to Anderson in an effort to embarrass the columnist publicly for angering the White House by obtaining secret documents.

Nothing ever came of the matter, Hunt said.

The vote for turning over the material on the Anderson plot was unanimous, Church said, while votes to turn over files on the break-in and on Chile were both 7 to 4.