

Doubt Voiced By Mansfield On CIA Accord

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Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (Mont.) said yesterday he doubts that his efforts to arrange a compromise in the fight over Senatorial supervision of the Central Intelligence Agency will succeed.

If a compromise is not arranged, "we'll have to take it to the floor and battle it out," he added.

Mansfield and Senate Minority Leader Everett McKinley Dirksen (Ill.) met last week with President Johnson to brief him on the struggle over the CIA. Reporting on the meeting, Mansfield said that the President considered the CIA question a matter for the Senate to decide. He added that he and Dirksen had not asked the President to help decide the argument.

The current Senate furor over the CIA was initiated by Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, who is the sponsor of a resolution that would create a Committee on Intelligence Operations to supervise the CIA and other foreign intelligence activities.

The proposed nine-man Committee would consist of three members from each of three Committees — Armed Services, Appropriations, and Foreign Relations. The current seven-man CIA group is composed of senior members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees.

Foreign Relations Committee passed the resolution by a 14-to-5 vote on May 17 despite strong criticism from the present CIA watchdog group whose chairman, Sen. Richard Russell (D-Ga.), accused the Foreign Relations Committee of trying to

information to the subcommittee. One of Sen. J. William Fulbright's complaints is that CIA Director William F. Raborn refused to answer questions before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee earlier this year.

If a compromise is not achieved, Mansfield unhappily predicts that the CIA resolution will be debated on the floor sometime next week.

"The debate wouldn't help the (CIA) agency or wouldn't help the Senate," he said, "I am fearful that things would be said which shouldn't be said."

Appropriations Committee Chairman Carl Hayden (D-Ariz.) a member of the CIA group, has joined the contest with a letter to members of his committee urging them to support Russell's move to refer the CIA Resolution to his own Armed Services Committee.

But even as the battle lines form, both sides are reluctant to bring the resolution to a vote.

The supporters of the McCarthy resolution fear that they will be decisively beaten by the combined mass of the numerous Appropriations and Armed Services Committees, who will be joined by Southerners and many Republicans.

The Russell forces fear that they will not receive as large a proportion of the votes as in 1956 when they turned back a Mansfield proposal to create a joint Congressional CIA committee by a vote of 59 to 27. A large vote for the McCarthy resolution, the Russell forces fear, will be interpreted as a criticism of their own CIA supervision.

Tempers on the Foreign Relations Committee have been aroused by Russell's statements that he is reluctant to grant the Foreign Relations Committee a role in CIA supervision because of security leaks from the Committee.

"muscle in" on his group.

Mansfield, acting as mediator has tried vainly in the last two weeks to arrange a compromise.

One of the compromises advanced would add senior Foreign Relations Committee members to the existing Russell group. Mansfield said yesterday that he favors this suggestion.

Another is to create a special subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee to receive full briefings by the CIA. Under this plan, President Johnson would have to authorize the CIA to give the

Among the uncommitted there is still the small hope that a public debate can be avoided and that the matter can be settled privately, as other jurisdictional disputes in the Senate have been in the past.

But it now appears likely that despite Mansfield's efforts the McCarthy resolution is heading for a full and raucous showdown on the Senate floor.