

Hearings On Dodd To Proceed

Associated Press

The Senate Ethics Committee, rejecting the contention of Sen. Thomas J. Dodd that it lacks jurisdiction to investigate his handling of campaign funds, announced yesterday that it had ordered public hearings "to be held as soon as practicable."

The voting overruled the Connecticut Democrat's challenge to its authority was reported to be unanimous. However, it is understood that the vote to conduct public hearings was not unanimous.

The Committee launched an investigation of misconduct charges against Dodd a year ago and held a series of public hearings last summer on his relations with Chicago public relations man Julius Klein.

For about four hours today the Committee met in closed session. Most of the time Dodd and his chief attorney, John Sonnett, were present.

Afterwards Sens. John Stennis (D-Miss.), and Wallace F. Bennett (R-Utah) the chairman and vice chairman issued a statement saying Sonnett presented arguments including "a contention that the Committee does not have jurisdiction over the financial activities of Sen. Dodd . . . The Committee subsequently decided . . . that it had jurisdiction over the financial affairs."

The Committee said these financial matters include the receipt and use by Dodd of campaign funds that were raised between 1961 and 1965.

The Committee said also its inquiry covers payment by the Senate of travel expenses to Dodd and "the propriety of Sen. Dodd's acceptance and use of automobiles loaned by a Connecticut contractor."