

High Court Vote Faces Filibuster

The Senate Judiciary Committee is to meet today to consider two Supreme Court nominations, but opponents of nominee William H. Rehnquist are expected to delay a vote with a filibuster.

Opponents indicated that the "extended discussion" tactic would not be used indefinitely but could continue until all committee members are satisfied that Rehnquist has provided information requested by senators who have questioned the nomination.

Rehnquist, 47, an assistant attorney general, is expected to clear the committee by a wide margin when a vote is taken. The other nominee, Richmond attorney Lewis F. Powell Jr., 64, apparently is unopposed.

The Senate majority and minority leadership has assured President Nixon that the Senate will remain in session until it disposes of the nominations, thus combatting any attempt to filibuster on the floor. Unlike the Senate as a whole, however, the Judiciary Committee has no procedure for stopping debate.

Aides to Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) said some committee members were frustrated by what they considered Rehnquist's unresponsive testimony at his confirmation hearing.

A newspaper report that

Rehnquist was listed as a member of the right-wing Arizonaans for America organization in 1960 was denied yesterday by Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch said the membership was listed on documents in the possession of Franklin H. Littell, a Temple University religion professor and authority on extremist groups.

Mitchell's statement said the FBI report on Rehnquist "clearly indicates that he was not a member of the organization" and that the matter was "thoroughly investigated" by the FBI.

Asked whether Rehnquist personally denied membership, a Justice Department spokesman said Mitchell's statement would have to speak for itself.