

Bill Predicted To Cut Power Of President

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COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho, June 25—A bipartisan coalition of Senate leaders will introduce legislation to strip the President of national emergency powers that have accumulated over a period of four decades, Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) said here today.

The emergency powers, Church said, are like a "loaded gun lying around the house," because of abuses of power associated with the Watergate scandals.

"Frail men continue to succumb to the temptations of great power. These are times when we can ill afford to let that power go unchecked," Church told the annual conference of the National Association of Attorneys General.

Church said Senate co-sponsors of the bill will be Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.), Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.), and Sen. Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (R-Md.), cochairman with Church of the Senate Special Committee on National Emergencies, which has been studying presidential powers for more than a year.

There are four declarations of national emergencies including President Roosevelt's in 1933 and President Truman's in 1950 during the Korean War.

More recent ones were issued by President Nixon in March, 1970, during a protracted postal worker's strike in New York City, and in August, 1971, when the wage and price freeze was announced.

None of the national emergencies has been formally repealed and as a result the President is empowered to invoke more than 470 laws which Church said "Congress expected would be used only in times of great crisis."

Church warned that under such laws the President may

seize property without due process, control industrial productions, seize commodities, assign military forces abroad, institute martial law, seize and control all transportation and communication, regulate private enterprise and restrict travel.

"You should know that this vast range of powers, taken together, confers enough authority on the President to rule the country without reference to normal constitutional processes," Church said.

He said the new bill would allow Presidents to proclaim a national emergency only when there is an invasion of the United States, a declaration of war by Congress, an economic disaster, an internal insurrection in support of a foreign power, or a catastrophic natural disaster. By concurrent resolution, Congress either could end the emergency declaration immediately or extend its life.

The attorneys general also heard sharply contrasting views on proposals to restrict the federal government's accumulation of computerized criminal records in what turned out to be a continuation of a debate begun in Washington at hearings by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights chaired by Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.).

FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley, in a speech read to the conference by Assistant FBI Director Wason G. Campbell, said to deprive law enforcement officials of "computerized rap sheets" would "unfairly and unwisely handicap the agencies charged with protecting the rights of all Americans." Kelley canceled an appearance at the conference because of a serious illness of his wife.

Lawrence M. Baskir, chief counsel to the Senate subcom-

mittee, said the Ervin bill would probably restrict police access to the FBI National Crime Information Center computer to cases in which an arrest has already been made.

Baskir said studies have shown that up to 70 per cent of the NCIC's records are inaccurate or incomplete with respect to disposition of charges.