

To Block Bill

CIA's Unusual Secret Move

Chicago Daily News

WASHINGTON — The Central Intelligence Agency, in a highly unusual move, has quietly asked the Senate Judiciary Committee to hear its private objections to a bill already reported to the Senate for action.

The bill is a measure designed to safeguard the privacy of government employees from unwarranted intrusions. Among other things, it would limit the use of lie detector and psychiatric tests by all federal agencies, including the CIA.

CIA officials, whose identity could not be learned, contacted Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), the committee chairman, and Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) to request a secret hearing on the agency's objections.

Eastland promptly submitted the request to the other committee members, along with a letter from Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) opposing an executive session to hear the CIA's case.

Ervin is the principal sponsor of the privacy bill. He warned that recommitment of the bill would "set an unusual precedent," but said he would be willing to have the CIA testify in a public session.

CIA 'IMMUNITY'

"I would like to expose before the American people the specious arguments which the Central Intelligence Agency puts forth as reasons for wishing an exemption . . . from the bill."

Ervin said the CIA has come to regard itself as immune from respecting the

guarantees of personal freedom contained in the Constitution.

The CIA apparently is most concerned about the bill's limitations on lie detector and psychiatric examinations. Both devices are used to screen applicants for jobs at the CIA.

AMENDMENT

Ervin's original bill prohibited any federal agency, including the CIA and the equally sensitive National Security Agency, from asking any employe or job applicant about his sex life, his religion or his family relationships as part of a lie detector test.

In an amendment narrowly approved by the judiciary committee, the directors of the CIA and the NSA were permitted to authorize such tests in individual cases where national security was clearly at stake.

Some senators, including Bayh, have considered leading a floor fight to give the CIA and the NSA much broader exemptions from the Ervin bill than those permitted by the committee.

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