

Lively Debate

Colby Approved As CIA Director

Washington

Despite increasing congressional concern over the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency in domestic affairs, the Senate yesterday confirmed by a vote of 83 to 13 the nomination of acting director William E. Colby to director of the CIA.

Colby, a career intelligence officer who spent most of his career in the CIA's clandestine Directorate of Operations, headed the controversial U.S. pacification program in South Vietnam from 1968 to 1971.

Despite the wide margin by which he was confirmed, Colby came under intensive questioning by the Senate Armed Services Committee, fearful that the CIA's connection with Watergate may have led the agency to skirt in other ways the legal ban on domestic intelligence operations by the CIA.

There had been allegations that CIA help had been given to former CIA employee E. Howard Hunt in the 1971 break-in of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's, psychiatrist in California, plus allegations that the CIA had attempted to help in the cover-up of Watergate.

ANSWERS

Colby was in many ways more forthright with the senators than previous directors, but some of his answers to questions disturbed some liberal senators.

Senator William Proxmire (Dem.-Wis.) submitted a long questionnaire and was disturbed to learn that the agency's Domestic Contact Service, which asks academics, businessmen and Americans traveling abroad to volunteer information about conditions aboard, has recently been put under clandestine control in order to improve coordination of its

collection activities with those of the agency abroad.

In a speech on the Senate floor yesterday, Proxmire said, "I find this disturbing because of the possibility that the DCS, which has a good reputation, may now become tainted by the covert side of the agency," the side which has become known as the "department of dirty tricks."

TRAINING

In answering the questionnaire, Colby also revealed the CIA is training the secret service and the new drug enforcement administration officers in counter-intelligence techniques. He disclosed that diplomats and other foreign visitors to this country are subject to CIA scrutiny while they are here.

At the same time Senator Charles Percy (Rep.-Ill.) said he was reassured by Colby that the CIA would not train domestic police forces unless the circumstances were most extraordinary and in that case, Percy said, Colby promised to let the CIA oversight subcommittee know about it.

In spite of his reservations, Proxmire voted for confirmation.

Senator John V. Tunney (Dem.-Calif.) also voted for confirmation but Senator Alan Cranston (Dem.-Calif.) voted against it.

Senator Harold Hughes (Dem.-Iowa), who also voted against confirmation, said Colby would not promise that the CIA would not get involved in another secret war as it did in Laos.

BILLS

Proxmire and Cranston used the occasion of the debate to announce they would offer resolutions and bills to strengthen congressional oversight of the CIA and tighten the laws governing its operation.

Proxmire called for the formation of a standing committee with a full staff



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WILLIAM COLBY
83 to 13 vote

on the CIA to be composed of members of the Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees and others. At present a subcommittee made up of Armed Services and Foreign Relations members oversees the CIA.

Cranston called for a one-year ad hoc select committee to study the CIA and all foreign intelligence operations.

He also said he would offer amendments to the National Security Act of 1947, which would:

- Limit the director of the CIA to an eight-year term.
- Provide that both the director and deputy director posts could not be filled by CIA insiders at the same

time.

Change the National Security Act so that covert operations would have to be authorized in writing by the President.

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