

Senate OKs

Bush as CIA Boss

Washington

The Senate confirmed the nomination of George Bush as director of the embattled Central Intelligence Agency yesterday, rejecting protests by some Democrats that his political background would thwart restoration of public confidence in the agency.

The vote was 64 to 27, with only one Republican, Jesse Helms of North Carolina, voting against the nomination. Helms said Bush was "not the best qualified man for the job."

Another Republican, Lowell Weicker of Connecticut, voted "present." Weicker said he could

Back Page Col. 1

Front Page 1 C I A

not support Bush because of his past political activities but could not oppose him otherwise.

Bush's most recent job has been chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in Peking.

It was Bush's political past, particularly his role as Republican national chairman in the waning months of the Nixon administration, that generated the opposition to him.

Bush, 51, has also been a two-term House member from Texas, twice an unsuccessful candidate for the Senate, and a U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Even his Democratic critics conceded Bush had demonstrated integrity and ability in all of his jobs and said they could support him for almost any other post in government.

But they argued that at a time when the CIA is reeling from disclosures of misdeeds and illegal activities, Bush was not the right choice to restore public trust in the agency.

"We cannot have a rehabilitation of the agency without a restoration of public confidence," said Thomas McIntyre (Dem-N.H.) leader of the opposition. "A person so vulnerable to political subornation doesn't inspire confidence."

Some of Bush's supporters contended his political background could be an asset by providing him with the political astuteness to stand up to a president who wanted the CIA to undertake a misdeed.

"All of the recent (CIA) directors have told me they have done things they knew were wrong but that they did them because the President wanted them to do it," said Barry Goldwater (Rep-Ariz.), one of Bush's strongest defenders. "I think George Bush has demonstrated the ability to stand up to the President."

As CIA director, Bush will succeed William Colby, who was fired by President Ford last November but was asked to stay on until Bush was confirmed by the Senate.

Since its creation in 1947, the CIA has had eight directors: three have come from the military, three from private or government careers and two from within the agency. Bush will be the first director with a political background.

Los Angeles Times