

Senator Church to Press C.I.A. Issue

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Declaring that deception of Congress has become "a habit," Senator Frank Church said today he would turn over any misleading testimony in the hearings on policy toward Chile to the Justice Department for investigation into possible perjury.

"I'm not going to let this matter slide by," Mr. Church said in a telephone interview today. "I'm very much incensed by this."

2 High Aides Testified

It was the Idaho Democrat's first public comment on the subject since it was reported Sunday that the Central Intelligence Agency had been secretly authorized to spend more than \$8-million between 1970 and 1973 in a covert attempt to make it impossible for President Salvador Allende Gossens to govern in Chile.

Mr. Church is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on Multinational Corporations, which held highly publicized hearing last year into the International Telephone & Telegraph Company's attempts to urge United States intervention against the Allende regime. Mr. Allende was overthrown by a military junta in a bloody coup d'état one year ago today.

During those hearings, the

State Department officials, Charles A. Meyer, former Assistant Secretary of State for Latin-American Affairs, and Edward M. Korry, a former Ambassador to Chile, testified that the United States had maintained a policy of nonintervention toward Chile.

The two officials also refused on a number of occasions during their testimony to answer specific questions about what they said were privileged communications on United States policy toward Dr. Allende.

Mr. Church, who returned late yesterday from a lengthy campaign trip to Idaho, said he had authorized the subcommittee staff to review testimony of Government witnesses who knew of the intelligence agency's clandestine activities.

If the staff review determines that there were contradictions in their testimony, the Senator said, "in my judgment the action that would be called for would be to refer the testimony to the Justice Department for investigation of possible perjury.

That's the reason we swear in witnesses," he said.

Details Given by Colby

To aid in the staff review, Mr. Church said, he will formally request a copy of the testimony on the agency's Chilean involvement given to a House of Representatives Armed Services Intelligence Subcommittee in April by William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence.

Government officials have confirmed that the still-secret testimony includes a detailed discussion of the C.I.A.'s goals and strategy in allotting the \$8-million cash payments.

"Apart from the question of whether perjury was committed in a legal sense," Mr. Church added, "there's no question but what the committee was given to believe that our policy was one of nonintervention."

"This is clearly what they [the witnesses] wanted us to believe, even though the truth was a very different matter," he said.

'Vietnam Syndrome' Seen

Mr. Church, a liberal who was one of the early critics of the Vietnam war, characterized the misleading testimony as "part of the Vietnam syndrome."

"There's become a pattern of deceiving the Congress that I think began cropping up during the Vietnam war," he said. "It became a habit with testimony on all sensitive matters. If so, it's a habit the Congress is going to have to break."

Along with the study of possible perjury, Mr. Church said he would formally request the full Senate Foreign Relations Committee, headed by Senator J. W. Fulbright, now in China, to review "the propriety" of clandestine activities against constitutionally elected leaders such as Mr. Allende.