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Panel Bucks Saxbe Action To Senate

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Sidestepping a tough decision, the Senate Judiciary Committee agreed yesterday to let the full Senate judge the constitutionality of the nomination of Sen. William B. Saxbe (R-Ohio) as attorney General.

The committee recommended neither approval nor disapproval of a bill designed to remove a constitutional impediment to Saxbe's nomination.

The bill would lower the Attorney General's salary until 1975 from its present \$60,000 to its old level of \$35,000. A senator is paid \$42,500.

The purpose is to get around the constitutional provision that no member of Congress can be appointed to a civil office if its salary was raised during his term. Saxbe, whose Senate term ends in January, 1975, was in the Senate when the Attorney General's pay was raised in 1969.

The Senate scheduled debate on the bill for next week following action on the nomination of Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich.) to become Vice President. The House must also act on the bill.

The expectation was that the bill would pass with the support of nearly all 43 Senate Republicans and enough Democrats to ensure a majority.