

Senate Hearing

Curbs on CIA Powers Urged

Washington

Senator John Stennis (Dem.-Miss.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, called yesterday for legislation to curb the powers of the Central Intelligence Agency, as unprecedented public hearings continued on the confirmation of President Nixon's nominee to head the CIA, William E. Colby.

Stennis, still recuperating at Walter Reed Hospital from gunshot wounds suffered in a February robbery, said his committee staff has already started work on revising the CIA Act.

He was backed by Senator Stuart Symington (Dem.-Mo.), the acting chairman of the Armed Services Committee, who said:

"The law has got to be changed. We are going to eliminate anything that will allow the CIA to run a war, which they did in Laos. I would like to see them concentrated on intelligence."

After a full day of testimony opposing Colby's nomination from three former intelligence operatives in South Vietnam and from Representative Robert Drinan (Dem.-Mass.), who said Colby played "a despicable part" in allowing American atrocities in South Vietnam, Symington announced that he would recall Colby in open session next week.

"The man ought to have a chance to defend himself

against the charges," said Symington.

The Missouri senator indicated that Colby's confirmation was not in doubt.

Later, it appeared that the main purpose of these hearings is to pierce the secrecy surrounding the CIA. "We're trying to break stuff out," Symington said.

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