

Proxmire Would Open CIA to GAO Scrutiny

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said yesterday the CIA and other intelligence agencies have protected themselves from congressional review by not allowing audits of their programs.

Proxmire, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, introduced legislation authorizing the General Accounting Office to audit the agencies.

Such audits, Proxmire said, would be conducted by the GAO only if requested by an official Senate or House committee with intelligence juris-

diction. The reports would not be made public unless the agencies and Congress agreed on an unclassified format.

He cited a number of instances where the GAO has been refused access to data on intelligence operations, even when asked by a committee to get the information.

"The GAO has successfully audited the most sensitive Defense Department programs for years without being denied data," Proxmire said. "Thus the obstruction of the intelligence community appears to be more of a protective device than a legitimate concern for protecting sources and methods."

