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George Bush, left, and Senator Frank Church before hearing on nomination of Mr. Bush to head C.I.A.

Jackson Suggests Ford Has Key to Bush Approval

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By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, suggested today that President Ford might hold the key to getting smooth Senate confirmation for George Bush, his nominee to head the Central Intelligence Agency.

During his questioning of Mr. Bush before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Mr. Jackson remarked that "it seems to me the President has put you in a very awkward position" by declining to rule Mr. Bush out for consideration as a possible Vice-Presidential candidate.

The Senator, stressing the point several times, said that if Mr. Bush were indeed to accept the Vice-Presidential nomination it would mean he would serve as Director of Central Intelligence for only six months.

Later, he told newsmen that the "onus" was on Mr. Ford to rule Mr. Bush out and less upon Mr. Bush to turn down the post.

Mr. Bush agreed that he was in a predicament, saying, "Lord, I know I've got a heck of a problem." However, he has steadfastly refused to take himself out of consideration for the Vice-presidency to satisfy Senate critics.

Doubt Ford Shift

Administration sources said today that there was no likelihood that Mr. Ford would change his position now. They have been deeply concerned that the Bush appointment might fall victim to delaying tactics by Senate Democrats and to a major floor fight.

The Armed Services Committee did not end formal questioning of Mr. Bush today, but Senator John C. Stennis, the Mississippi Democrat who heads the committee, said he believed most Senators had learned all they needed to know to make a decision. Even if the committee voted this week, the nomination would not come to the floor of the Senate until after the Christmas recess, in early January.

Senator Frank Church, the Idaho Democrat who heads the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, appeared before the Armed Services Committee today in opposition to Mr. Bush's appointment. He called it "ill-advised" on the ground that Mr. Bush had a partisan political background and that he was unwilling to remove himself from consideration for Vice President.

Foresees Grooming

"It appears as though the White House may be using this important post merely as a grooming room before he is brought on stage next year as a Vice-Presidential running mate," Senator Church said.

Under questioning by committee members, Mr. Church said that if Mr. Bush chose to rule himself out of the Vice-Presidential race, he would consider not leading a floor fight against him though he would still cast his vote against him.

He voiced concern that Mr. Bush had no established record of standing up to a President of his own party on any issue during his years of public service.

Later Mr. Bush disclosed that he had written to President

Nixon urging him to resign in the summer of 1974. This was the first time Mr. Bush had mentioned this incident in a public forum.

The matter had been reported in books about the Nixon Administration, according to Congressional sources.

2 Democrats Against

Two Democratic of the committee, Senators John C. Culver of Iowa and Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont, announced their intention to vote against Mr. Bush.

"There are few public positions, including the Vice-Presidency, for which I would not consider you an altogether suitable choice. But I do not feel that you are a proper nominee for the directorship of the Central Intelligence Agency at this juncture in its history and at this moment in our national life," Mr. Culver said.

He said, as did other Senators, that "we are in need now of a director who can restore intelligence to its rightful and proper place in our national security system," and that Mr. Bush's possibly temporary duty there would not serve that purpose.

The committee met later to consider the nomination of Robert Ellsworth as Deputy Secretary of Defense. Mr. Ellsworth pledged to look for ways of cutting spending on defense intelligence. Senator Stennis said he expected that Mr. Ellsworth's nomination would be approved and that he would be confirmed by the Senate.