

A Move to Limit White House Fund

Washington.

The Senate Civil Service Committee unanimously approved a bill yesterday that would for the first time set specific statutory limits on the numbers of people on the presidential staff and would limit the White House "emergency fund."

President Nixon is reported to have had the largest staff of any chief executive in history.

The bill would restrict the White House emergency fund to \$1 million annually. There is no limit now on the fund, which is used for national security emergencies.

Following the Watergate scandals, this fund was severely criticized by members of Congress who questioned whether some of the funds used for activities by the White House "plumbers."

White House staff levels and the salaries paid have traditionally been set down in the annual appropriations measures Congress passes to finance all White House operations.

The bill approved by the committee would for the first time set specific limitations on presidential and vice presidential staff numbers and their maximum salaries. A similar bill has already been approved by the House.

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