

Senate Move

'33 Emergency May Be Ending

Washington

The Senate quietly passed a bill yesterday that would end the state of national emergency declared by Franklin Roosevelt in 1933 and which has been in effect ever since.

It also ends states of emergency called variously because of the Korean war and a 1970 postal strike.

The bill was approved without objection and without debate as part of the Senate's "routine business" for the day.

The House passed a similar bill in September, 1975. When differences are ironed out and an agreed version is signed by the President, the bill will terminate in two years all states of emergency declared by presidents over the years and never repealed.

These include Roosevelt's emergency, declared because of the Depression and during which many New Deal programs were formulated; Harry Truman's Korean war emergency of 1950; an emergency declared by Richard Nixon because of a postal strike in 1970 and another one by Mr. Nixon in 1971 because of the country's international balance of payments.

According to a congressional study committee, there are at least 470 laws in which Congress has conferred special powers on the presidency that can be exercised whenever a national emergency is in effect.

These include power to seize property, organize and control the means of production, seize commodities, assign military forces abroad, institute martial law, control transportation and communications, regulate private enterprise and restrict travel.

Senator Charles Mathias Jr. (Rep-Md.), co-chairman of the study panel, said in an interview that these powers are "lying ready like loaded guns in the hands of successive presidents."

The bill provides the two years to end the emergencies, because many federal agencies will have to get new laws passed to carry on programs now based on emergency powers.

The bill provided that any new emergency declared by a President will be reviewed by Congress every six months and may be revoked at any time by congressional resolution.