

CIA

Senate Backs Colby as C.I.A. Head and Indicates More Scrutiny of Agency

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The Senate approved by a large majority today the nomination of William E. Colby as director of the Central Intelligence Agency but indicated that the new intelligence chief would undergo more Congressional scrutiny than any of his predecessors.

Senator Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, the acting chairman of the Armed Services Committee, who led the debate on Mr. Colby's behalf, pledged to some of the C.I.A.'s critics that he would take steps to make public as much about the agency as possible, including the exact size of its budget.

The agency's budget, vari-ously estimated at between \$700-million and \$7-billion, has never been made public. Its funds come from appropriations secretly included in budgets of other agencies, most heavily in the Defense Department budget.

Mr. Colby, a career professional whose activity dates to World War II work for the Office of Strategic Services, was nominated by President Nixon in May to replace James R. Schlesinger, who became

Secretary of Defense. Mr. Colby's current title is deputy director for plans, the covert section of the agency.

The vote was 83 to 13 for Mr. Colby's confirmation, with the Senate Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, Senator Harold E. Hughes, Democrat of Iowa, and Senator Alan Cranston, Democrat of California, leading the opposition.

In the course of the two-hour debate, Senator William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin, who ultimately voted for Mr. Colby, engaged in an exchange with Mr. Symington, insisting

that the agency's budget should be made public.

Mr. Proxmire was joined by Mr. Cranston, who said that because the agency's budget was mixed secretly in the Pentagon's budget, Congress had difficulty finding out the exact costs of certain defense items.

Mr. Symington said that he would consult with Mr. Proxmire and others to see if the budget could be made public. Up to now, only a small number of senior members of Congress, including Mr. Symington, are privy to those facts, but are pledged to secrecy. Mr. Proxmire said he would introduce legislation to set up

a permanent Senate committee to oversee the C.I.A. Mr. Cranston proposed a one-year study commission to make recommendations about the entire intelligence set-up.

Because of controversy over the secret activities of the intelligence agency in Indochina and its role in providing help to E. Howard Hunt Jr., and others involved in the Water-gate case, Mr. Colby's nomination received considerably more attention than any of the previous appointments to this post. Unprecedented public hearings were held, as well as several closed-door sessions. Mr. Symington praised Mr.

Colby as "a dedicated and competent professional," and said that he had had to carry out many difficult tasks, including heading the American pacification effort in South Vietnam.

Mr. Colby's role in the pacification effort led to Mr. Kennedy's and Mr. Cranston's decision to vote against him. Mr. Kennedy also said he wanted someone other than a specialist in clandestine activities to head the agency.

"Looking to the future of the country and the future of the C.I.A., I believe the United States has had enough secrecy and cover ideas and covering up," Mr. Kennedy said. "At

the very least, the C.I.A. needs a greater balance between its clandestine and its intelligence functions."

Mr. Hughes said that he was unsatisfied with many of Mr. Colby's responses to questions put to him in hearings, and this left Mr. Hughes with the fear "that he might acquiesce in another secret war, at least so long as it can be kept secret." Senator Symington repeated that the Armed Services Committee had begun looking into the agency's legal charter, with an aim of insuring that its private emphasis was on gathering information and not en-