

Confirmation of Kelley in FBI Post Likely Today

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The Senate Judiciary Committee meets in closed session this morning to adopt what is expected to be a unanimous recommendation that the Senate confirm the nomination of Clarence M. Kelley, police chief of Kansas City, Mo., as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), chairman of the Com-

mittee, said last night, at the conclusion of public hearings on the Kelley nomination, that he hopes for Senate confirmation before the start of the July Fourth congressional recess this weekend.

There seemed little prospect that any member of the Judiciary Committee would seek to frustrate that hope.

The Committee heard yesterday from six Kansas City civic leaders. Four of them re-

commended Kelley's prompt approval and two of them opposed it on grounds that he is insensitive to the problems of blacks and other minority groups.

Thus W. Davis, former mayor of the city and president of its board of police commissioners for the past three months, praised the nominee as "a natural leader."

Among other accomplishments, Davis said, Kelley has "meticulously re-educated" the police department to follow the "restraints" imposed on police by recent Supreme Court decisions.

Other supporters of Kelley included David R. Hardy, the chairman, and Dr. Charles B. Wilkinson, the only black member, of a Kansas City commission that investigated the performance of the police during racial disorders there after the 1968 assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., in Memphis.

Both said they had agreed with the commissioner's finding that Kelley is "honest and fair, has real integrity, and is highly respected generally by

the policemen under his command, including the Negro policemen."

However, Bruce R. Watkins, circuit clerk of Jackson County, Mo., and president of Freedom Incorporated, a local civil rights organization, contended that Kelley's "unyielding position on law and order" contributed fuel to the fiery 1968 riots instead of quenching them.

"Clarence M. Kelley is the perfect 'Big Brother' police official," Watkins said, "and the real tragedy is that he is merely symptomatic of a condition that permeates the whole country . . . the poor, the black are universally denied equality before the law."

His testimony was buttressed by J. Nelson Thompson, a black attorney from Kansas City who related incidents of police brutality and provocation during the 1968 riots.

Disputing the testimony of Watkins and Thompson was Everett P. O'Neal, a black businessman from Kansas City. He said Kelley had shown his "understanding" of minority problems by getting policemen to refer to black citizens as "Sir" and "Madam," rather than "Boy" and "Girl."

Sen. Eastland and Sen. Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska, the Judiciary Committee's ranking Republican, criticized Watkins and Thompson for "hearsay" testimony, but the chairman praised O'Neal as "a fine witness."

Kelley returned to the witness chair only briefly yesterday, for further questioning by Sen. Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.) on the issue of "domestic intelligence" activities by the FBI and the Kansas City police.

"Senator," Kelley told Hart, "I know of no group any more steeped in the need for the observance of human dignity and civil rights than the police."

Kelley promised that, once confirmed, he will consult with the Committee on the standards and criteria governing such intelligence.

Yesterday, as during the two days of Kelley's confirmation hearings last week, there were never more than four members of the Committee present at one time. Most Democrats on the panel never entered the hearing room.