

Committee OK For FBI Chief

Washington

President Nixon's nomination of Clarence M. Kelley as FBI director cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee without dissent yesterday, and Senate confirmation today seemed likely.

The judiciary chairman, Senator James O. Eastland (Dem-Miss.), said after the closed meeting that he expects to bring Kelley's nomination before the Senate today and foresaw no difficulties with confirmation.

If the Senate acts as expected, the vote will give the FBI its first permanent chief since the death May 2, 1972, of J. Edgar Hoover who served 48 years as the bureau's first and only director. William D. Ruckelshaus has been serving as acting director since April 5, when links with the Watergate scandal forced the President to withdraw the name of his original nominee, L. Patrick Gray III.

No such taint touches Kelley, 61, who has been the highly regarded police chief of Kansas City, Mo., since 1961 and served for the preceding 21 years as an FBI agent.

Kelley seems likely, however, to have considerably more dealings with Congress than Hoover, whose autonomy was legendary.

In prospect, according to Eastland and other judiciary committee members, are moves to create a subcommittee to oversee FBI operations and to impose a time limit by legislation on the tenure of the FBI director.

Eastland said he was "certain" from Kelley's testimony at three confirmation hearings that Kelley will cooperate with an oversight committee. He said oversight procedures will be the subject of Judiciary Congress returns from its July 4 recess.

Los Angeles Times