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(CIA)

WASHINGTON--THE SENATE TODAY APPROVED PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOMINATION OF RICHARD HELMS, 50-YEAR-OLD CAREER INTELLIGENCE EXPERT, TO HEAD THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

ACTION WAS BY ROUTINE VOICE VOTE. THERE WAS NO AUDIBLE DISSENT. THE HELMS NOMINATION HAD BEEN APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE.

IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD, MONT., SAID HE EXPECTS THE SENATE WILL BEGIN A FLOOR BATTLE JULY 14TH ON HOW TO OVERSEE THE OPERATIONS OF THE BIG SPY AGENCY WHICH HELMS IS TO HEAD.

THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAS VOTED 14 TO 5 TO FORMALIZE A NINE-MEMBER CIA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WITH THREE OF THE MEMBERS FROM THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. THAT MOVE IS OPPOSED BY CHAIRMAN RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE WHICH HAS LONG CLAIMED LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION OVER CIA.

HELMS, A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT FOR UNITED PRESS ASSOCIATIONS BEFORE WORLD WAR II, HAS WORKED SINCE THE WAR FOR CIA AND ITS PREDECESSOR ORGANIZATIONS. HE IS THE FIRST CAREER MAN TO WORK HIS WAY UP TO THE TOP OF THE AGENCY.

HE SUCCEEDS RETIRED ADM. WILLIAM F. RABORN WHO HAD HEADED CIA FOR A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR. RABORN PLANS TO RETURN TO RETIREMENT.

SEN. THOMAS H. KUCHEL, R-CAL., PRAISED RABORN AS "A GREAT AMERICAN" BEFORE THE ROUTINE VOTE ON THE HELMS NOMINATION.

HE SAID RABORN, WHO IS CREDITED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLARIS SUBMARINE AND MISSILE SYSTEM "MERITS THE RESPECT AND GREAT ESTEEM OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

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