

Senate Committee

Gets Civil Rights

Hearings July 16

BY JOHN HERBERS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The Senate Judiciary Committee, headed by Mississippi Democrat James O. Eastland, announced Tuesday it will begin hearings on President Kennedy's civil rights bill on July 16, with Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy as first witness.

The announcement appeared to confirm predictions that the full committee would conduct the hearings rather than turn them over to a subcommittee first. This means it will be a one-stage procedure, but does not necessarily shorten consideration of the issue.

Senate Democratic leaders are convinced there is little hope of getting Kennedy's full civil rights bill out of Eastland's committee. Thus they have devised alternative methods to get it to the Senate floor for consideration.

DIVERTED TO CALENDAR

This strategy calls for diverting the House civil rights bill to the Senate calendar when it arrives, thereby avoiding having it assigned to the so-called "graveyard" of the Judiciary Committee. It could be then called up for the beginning of what is expected to be a determined southern filibuster.

The Judiciary Committee will deal with all sections of the President's proposals except the public accommodations feature, which is under consideration by the Senate Commerce Committee.

Up for judiciary study will be proposals involving voting rights, school desegregation and the possible cut-off of federal funds for projects where discrimination is practiced.

Senate GOP Leader Everett M. Dirksen, who opposes the public accommodations bill, is the ranking Republican on Eastland's Judiciary Committee. He favors other portions of the administration program, but Eastland and fellow southern senators oppose it generally.

MARK THIRD APPEARANCE

The July 16 hearings will mark Atty. Gen. Kennedy's third major appearance before a congressional committee on the President's civil rights legislation. He testified before the House Judiciary Committee last week and went before the Senate Commerce Committee Monday and Tuesday. He will return Wednesday.