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Approved For Release 2007/06/21 : CIA-RDP99-00498R000100040155-9

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE
28 January 1976

Senate confirms Bush to head CIA, 64 to 27

WASHINGTON [AP]—The Senate Tuesday confirmed President Ford's choice of former GOP National Chairman George Bush to succeed William E. Colby as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Senate approval by a vote of 64 to 27 came nearly three months after Bush was nominated. Several Democratic senators had said Bush's political past should disqualify him from holding the sensitive post.

Last month Ford ruled out Bush as a possible vice-presidential candidate in 1976.

In advance of the vote, Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield [Mont.] urged approval of Bush's nomination.

Mansfield said he was not troubled by Bush's political background.

"PERHAPS A politican in that job might be a good thing," Mansfield told colleagues, noting that many recently discovered CIA abuses took place while "nonpoliticians" ran the agency.

Mansfield said he believes Bush will not tolerate further abuses and "there will be no shenanigans in the years ahead."

Bush's confirmation had seemed reasonably assured. Although there remained a residue of opposition to the nomination in the Senate, administration officials had assured observers that "we're not anticipating a defeat."

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