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Salinger Raps Barry's Claim

Associated Press

Sen. Pierre Salinger (D-Calif.), said yesterday that Republican presidential nominee Barry Goldwater was guilty of the "wildest distortion" in suggesting the 1962 Cuban crisis was timed for political reasons.

White House press secretary under President Kennedy, Salinger spoke in the Senate of Sen. Goldwater's charge in a Seattle, Wash., speech that Mr. Kennedy timed the crisis in Cuba in relation to the 1962 congressional elections. It was Salinger's first formal Senate speech since his appointment as successor to the late Sen. Clair Engle (D-Calif.).

Salinger said Soviet Premier Khrushchev had chosen his own time, place and methods of installing missiles in

Cuba. He said the missiles were discovered and when confronted with the possible destruction of his own country, Khrushchev backed down.

"This was the first real nuclear crisis in the world. And American courage — and wisdom—paid off," Salinger said. He added:

"Never before had the Soviets been forced into such clear retreat. But since October 1962, the Soviet leader has abandoned nuclear missile rattling as a tool in diplomacy.

"Why any American would want now to try to picture a great national success as a setback passes all understanding. But that is what the Republican candidate has tried to do.

"Why any American would try to describe a triumph for all free men as a domestic political move defies reason and the facts. But that is what the Republican candidate has tried to do."