

Hill Hawks Urge More War Pressure; Doves Gaining Strength, Rivers Says

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Congressional hawks yesterday cried for a "hit 'em again harder" strategy for North Vietnam to get the war over with.

While this theme was being sounded in Congress, the Air Force Chief of Staff in the Pentagon said naval shelling of the North was just using a different weapon, not an escalation.

Gen. John P. McConnell, USAF chief, also said the bombing of North Vietnam had been accurate and was designed to "punish" that country to the point where it would decide to withdraw from the war.

Sen. Thomas J. McIntyre (D-N.H.) said two heavy battleships should be taken out of mothballs so the bombardment of North Vietnam could be intensified.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W. Va.) joined in on the demand. Both Senators argued that the increased pressure on the North would help end the war sooner. They are members of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) Chairman of that Committee, has long pressed for the shelling of North Vietnam and expressed delight yesterday that it had finally come to pass.

Russell argued with Chairman J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about the scope and direction of the war. Fulbright repeated his regret that he ever voted for the Tonkin Gulf resolution authorizing the Vietnam war

escalation and added that he was attracted to the strategy of withdrawing U.S. forces into enclaves.

Russell countered that the enclave strategy would lengthen rather than shorten the Vietnam war.

In the House, Chairman L. Mendel Rivers (D-S.C.) of the Armed Services Committee said "we had better get this war over fast" because the doves opposing it were gaining strength. He recommended the direction of the war from civilian to military leaders.

"The children have had it long enough," Rivers said in recommending the transfer.

A leader of the doves—Sen. Joseph S. Clark (D-Pa.)—challenged Johnson Administration Vietnam policies in a debate that kept the Senate from voting on the bill authorizing \$4.5 billion for additional

aircraft and other hardware for the war.

Gen. McConnell said "escalation is an unfortunate word" to use whenever the United States changes its weaponry for doing the same basic job of hitting North Vietnam's military targets. He said the naval shelling of North Vietnam is "the proposition of doing with shells what you've been doing with bombs."

He said the shelling may reduce the need for some of the bombing, but at another point he stated that there were still a "considerable" number of military targets in North Vietnam that have not been hit.

The Air Force chief said the bombing of the North "has been less than pinpoint if you're talking about shooting down a pickle barrel," but added that the bombs on a "good run" are hitting between 250 and 700 feet of their targets.