

Quoted Out of Context, Fulbright Says

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By the Associated Press

Sen. J. William Fulbright accuses a New York newspaper published by an ex-aide of President Johnson of trying to discredit him, saying it quotes out of context an off-the-record interview.

Editor William S. McIlwain of the newspaper—Newsday, a large Long Island daily published by former presidential press secretary Bill D. Moyers—said the interview was on the record and its story “accurate and entirely in context.”

At issue was a dispatch from Washington by Newsday political writer Frank Lynn quoting Fulbright as saying some government officials view Vietnam as “a nice little war, not too much killing, but still a big help to the economy.”

The story, said Fulbright, specified Sens. Richard B. Russel, D-Ga., and Henry Jackson, D-Wash., and Rep. L Mendel Rivers, D-S.C., as among backers of Johnson’s war policies whose home areas benefited from war-generated Defense contracts.

Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the leading congressional foe of Johnson’s Vietnam policies, said of the story: “I can only assume that this may be an effort to discredit me because I am critical of administration policy in Vietnam.

“I did have a background and off-the-record luncheon conver-

sation with Mr. Lynn. The publication of out-of-context statements which I am alleged to have made is most regrettable.”

Fulbright said nothing he told

Lynn about members of Congress or government officials was intended “in any way to impugn their motives, whatever positions they have taken regarding the Vietnam war.

“If anything attributed to me in this story in any way reflects upon the honesty, integrity or motives of any member of Congress or official of this government, I did not intend it.”