

SF Chronicle

APR 25 1975

Senator Places Vietnam Blame

White Sulphur Springs,
W. Va.

Senator Thomas J. McIntyre yesterday denounced efforts to blame the collapse of South Vietnam on the U.S. failure to continue military aid.

"The blame rests squarely with the establishment and its faulty assumption that the government of South Vietnam was a bastion of freedom and democracy its people would fight to the death to defend," McIntyre said in a speech at a meeting of the American Bankers Association governing council.

The New Hampshire Democrat, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, defined "the establishment" as U.S. business, political and labor leaders and opinion molders, including himself and his



SENATOR MCINTYRE
'Faulty assumption'

audience.

On Indochina, McIntyre said, "The establishment has deluded itself — and misled the people — for a quarter of a century," add-

ing that he did so too until he decided in 1968 that the basic assumption about Vietnam was wrong.

"The final, ultimate and most reprehensible betrayal of truth in this endless travesty is the misbegotten effort — already under way — to dump a load of guilt and anguish upon the American people for the fall of South Vietnam and Cambodia in order to save face for the es-

tablishment and soothe the tender egos of those whose prophecies self-destructed before they self-fulfilled," he said.

"The American people didn't sell out South Vietnam and Cambodia," McIntyre went on, declaring that while 56,000 Americans died in Indochina "so far as we know, not one Soviet or Chinese soldier fought on the side of the North Vietnam-

ese.

"The American people gave 34 times as much military aid to South Vietnam as the Communist powers gave to North Vietnam," the senator said, noting that since the 1973 Paris peace agreement the United States has given South Vietnam \$6.6 billion while the Soviets and Chinese gave North Vietnam \$2.7 billion.

Associated Press