

## FURTHER INQUIRY ON LAVELLE ASKED

2 Senators Urge the Move  
—Abrams Vote Delayed

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 11—Two members of the Senate Arms Services Committee called today for full-scale hearings into the Indochina air war and alleged abuses in "protection reaction" raids over North Vietnam.

The demands, from Senators Harold E. Hughes, Democrat of Iowa, and Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, came as the Senate delayed until tomorrow a vote on the nomination of Gen. Creighton W. Abrams as Army Chief of Staff.

Approval of General Abrams's nomination seemed assured despite the delay, but there was obvious and widespread disagreement among members of the Armed Services Committee over how, and whether, the inquiry into unauthorized bombing over North Vietnam should be concluded.

### Mrs. Smith Sees Fault

The disagreement became clear with the unexpected announcement by Senator Margaret Chase Smith, ranking Republican, that in her opinion General Abrams was guilty of "nonfeasance" in his role as Vietnam commander because he testified that he did not know what his air deputy, Maj. Gen. John D. Lavelle, was doing.

General Abram's nomination has been delayed for nearly four months while the Senate investigated his involvement in the unauthorized bombing by the Seventh Air Force beginning last November. The Air Force commander then was General Lavelle, whose immediate superior in the chain of command was General Abrams.

### 'Nonfeasance' Is Seen

"General Abrams was in command," Mrs. Smith said in a statement distributed after the Senate debate today began. "It was his job to know what was happening and his failure to ascertain that the rules imposed by the Commander in Chief were being followed is nonfeasance by anyone's definition."

Last week Senator John C. Stennis, the committee chairman, announced that the 16 members were "unanimous" in agreeing that the Abrams nomination should be sent to the full Senate for its vote, but Mr. Stennis did not mention Mrs. Smith's dissent.

In her statement, the Republican from Maine said, "I am also not satisfied that General Abrams's superiors up the chain of command are as innocent of what was occurring as they purport to be."

### Symington Cites Regards

Senator Symington similarly declared that recent revelations that Navy pilots had also conducted unauthorized raids in the guise of protection-reaction "bear out my apprehensions" that General Lavelle was "being cut out and made a patsy of."

He declared that the Armed Services Committee had an obligation to "get down to the fundamentals of what's going on in the Pentagon."

But Senator Stennis, who remained on the floor throughout the more than five hours of debate, repeatedly declared that he did not plan to conduct further hearings into the unauthorized bombings.

Instead, he said, "the next move is up to the Department of Defense and we await their actions with interest."

Senator William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin, called for a court-martial of General Lavelle and declared: "In failing to assert the historical United States Government position of absolute control over the military, the Administration has failed in its duty."