

Illegal Bombing General Promoted

Washington

The Senate confirmed yesterday the promotion of an Air Force general accused of knowingly executing orders for unauthorized air raids against North Vietnam in 1972.

The vote cleared Major General Alton D. Slay for promotion to lieutenant general to serve as Air Force deputy chief of staff for research and development. The vote was 49 to 43.

Slay was deputy to Major General John D. Lavelle, commander of the U.S. Seventh Air Force in Vietnam in early 1972, when Lavelle ordered attacks in violation of written rules limiting attacks to retaliation.

Senator Birch Bayh (Dem-Ind.), leading the opposition, said in Senate debate that Slay showed poor judgment not only in executing illegal orders but by participating in falsification of reports to cover up non-retaliatory bombing raids.

Slay was defended by Senators Strom Thurmond (Rep-S.C.), Barry Goldwater (Rep-Ariz.), and Howard W. Cannon (Dem-Nev.), all members of the Senate Armed Services Committee and all holding major general rank as reserve officers.

Thurmond said the committee determined after an investigation in late 1972 that Lavelle alone was responsible for the unauthorized



AP Wirephoto

GEN. ALTON D. SLAY
Senate voted for him

bombing and that Slay "merely executed orders issued to him by his superior officer."

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