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Sen. Gravel

Thwarted on

War Papers

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Washington

The Senate Republican leadership yesterday blocked an attempt by Senator Mike Gravel (Dem-Alaska) to put a 63-page excerpt from the Kissinger Papers on the Vietnam War into the Congressional Record.

The excerpt, from a Vietnam study prepared for the President three years ago, dealt exclusively with evaluations of United States air and bombing operations in Vietnam up to that time.

Gravel, who said he might face a Senate censure move as a result of trying to make the secret materials public, contended the 63 pages conclusively demonstrate that bombing cannot win the war. (Last year, Gravel read the Pentagon papers into the record.)

Republican Whip Robert P. Griffin objected when Gravel sought unanimous consent to have the pages placed in the record without Gravel actually having to read them word for word. Griffin said he had been forewarned of Gravel's intention by an article in the

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Washington Post.

Griffin also served notice that since Gravel concedes the papers are classified "secret," Griffin will demand a closed session of the Senate at any time Gravel seeks to read portions of the study into the record word for word, as he can do without unanimous consent.

PAGES

The "Kissinger Papers," or "NSSM-1," as they are called for short, consist of about 1000 pages prepared on order for President Nixon, just after he took office in 1969, under the direction of presidential aide Henry Kissinger.

The over-all report is a compilation of answers by the Defense and State Departments, CIA and other agencies to a series of questions on the war posed by Kissinger, plus a covering memorandum of about 30 pages summarizing the questions and answers.

The document describes the situation in Vietnam and attempts to evaluate the bombing and other military and political factors in a move to lay out the options for President Nixon. Several copies have been circulating in Washington over the past week. Newsweek and Jack Anderson also published accounts of the papers.

According to a forthcoming book, the questions were



UPI Telephoto

SEN. MIKE GRAVEL
'Genocide' charged

prepared for Kissinger by Daniel Ellsberg, then with the Rand Corp. — the same man who later leaked the Pentagon Paper to the New York Times.

Thwarted by Griffin in his initial bid to put the papers into the Record, Gravel announced that he would try again, perhaps tomorrow. Meanwhile, he handed out prepared copies of the 63 pages to senators then on the floor, revealed that he had already sent copies to the Democratic presidential candidates, and promised that he would make a copy available to every senator.

At the same time, he read a prepared statement containing several quotes from the larger 63 - page document. He accused Mr. Nixon of undertaking renewed bombing "solely to avoid the appearance of defeat for Richard Nixon" in Vietnam. He said he was seeking to make the material public, even though it was classified, because the public had been misled.

'GENOCIDE'

Gravel later described President Nixon's recent bombing step-up as "murder and genocide" for the purpose of saving face and giving an illusion of withdrawal from Vietnam, accompanied by false rhetoric of "winding down" the war by withdrawal of ground forces.

He said Mr. Nixon was guilty of "malfeasance of office" and that Griffin was "part of a plot with the White House" to keep information from the American people.

State Department spokesman Charles Bray, discussing Gravel's charge that a bombing policy, which was found to be ineffective two years ago had simply been reconstituted, said, "I don't think that's a fair or accurate criticism... the analysis of the effect of the bombing (in the Kissinger Papers) covers a situation at a different time and under different circumstances."