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Gravel End Run: Dellums Prints Papers

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While the Senate was battling furiously over a request by Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) to put a secret 1969 report on Vietnam into the Congressional Record, Rep. Ron V. Dellums (D-Calif.) quietly obtained a copy of the 500-page document from Gravel and placed a third of it in the record without a single objection being voiced.

The remaining two-thirds was held up one day because of a heavy work load at the Government Printing Office. It is scheduled to appear today.

The incident is likely to escalate the already-bitter anger felt by many senators against Gravel—anger which has led to threats to censure him or to ask the Ethics Committee to

look into his conduct. Both Dellums and Gravel's office concede that Dellums obtained the document from Gravel.

The Senate struggled through two secret sessions last week on Gravel's request to print the document, which was prepared by Henry A. Kissinger for President Nixon early in 1969 and is still classified "secret." Gravel obtained a copy privately. The Senate never did give Gravel permission, and fresh talk of censure or Ethics Committee disciplinary action was voiced by Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) only yesterday merely because Gravel had read a few pages in the Record on Tuesday without notice.

Scott and others — already angry because Gravel a year ago released a classified version of the Pentagon papers at a hastily called subcommittee

meeting — said a senator violated his trust by releasing classified materials.

While all this was going on in the Senate, Dellums quietly obtained routine unanimous consent Wednesday to extend his remarks — a device to allow members to put materials in the back portion of the Record. He didn't describe the material at that time. He later placed in the hopper for printing an anti-war statement accompanied by the entire 500-page document.

"I received unanimous consent to address the House and therefore everything is open and above-board," said Dellums in a phone interview.

Dellums initially said "Gravel gave it to me and, asked me to introduce it in the Record," but Dellums, aides said later that he had

sought out Gravel and asked for the papers. Gravel's office also said it was Dellums who initiated the move.

"Nixon has carried out reckless acts and the American people are entitled to know what is in these papers," said Dellums. Gravel says the papers show that bombing can't defeat North Vietnam. Portions of the papers, obtained from private sources, have appeared in the Washington Post and other publications.