

NYTimes  
**Hoax in Congressional Record  
 Sets Off Inquiry by House Chiefs**

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 15—At least two statements falsely attributed to members of the House of Representatives appeared in the Congressional Record this morning and set off an investigation by House leaders.

Tucked in the back pages of the Record, where Representatives and Senators publish remarks on a variety of subjects, was a statement attributed to Representative Earl F. Landgrebe urging President Ford to appoint Richard M. Nixon as Vice President and then resign, and another attributed to Representative John M. Ashbrook praising the military regime in Chile.

Mr. Landgrebe, an Indiana Republican who was one of former President Nixon's staunch

defenders, and Mr. Ashbrook, a conservative Republican of Ohio, denied making such statements and asked that they be expunged from the permanent bound volume of the Congressional Record that will be published later.

The prospect that someone was sneaking false statements into the Congressional Record

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under the names of the lawmakers did not amuse leaders of the House.

Carl Albert, the Speaker of the House, interrupted debate on the floor to announce, "The chair views this matter with extreme concern and intends to get to the bottom of this matter."

Representative Wayne L. Hays, Democrat of Ohio, who is chairman of House Administration Committee, said that he had asked the Justice Department to investigate the matter. He said it should be possible to find the culprit through comparisons of handwriting and typewriters.

Mr. Landgrebe and Mr. Ashbrook may not have been the only victims of the hoax. Two weeks ago Representative Otto E. Passman, Democrat of Louisiana, complained that a false statement attributed to him appeared in the record of July 29.

Ghost-written speeches of Senators and Representatives and statements that were never uttered on the floors of Congress appear daily in the staid record of Congress's day-to-day proceedings. Until now, it has been relatively easy for a lawmaker to get his remarks published without question.

As a convenience to the legislators, Congressional Record boxes are situated in the House and Senate chambers and in the three house office buildings and the Senate office buildings.

Legislators could simply drop their statements, or revisions of remarks they may have made on the floor earlier in the day, into the boxes. Each night a clerk for the Congressional Record collects the statements from the boxes and takes them to the Government Printing Office where the Record is printed.

**Signature To Be Required**

Mr. Albert announced that henceforth all statements to be inserted in the Record must bear the signature of the representative, and Mr. Hays said he had directed the Congressional Record clerk to accept statements only from the box in the House chamber that is inaccessible to outsiders.

Mr. Hays told the House it was possible that the person responsible for the hoax could be prosecuted for forgery.

The false statement attributed to Mr. Landgrebe began by saying the following:

"Former President Nixon's mother was a saint, by his own admission in his farewell message to the White House staff. But he omitted mention of his own saintly qualities in that wonderful and touching address.

Richard Nixon was profane, but more often he was simply unintelligible or irrelevant. He bombed Indochina back to the Stone Age, but he owned and loved a beautiful Irish setter, King Timahoe. He impounded

funds intended for basic human needs, but he could play three different songs on the piano."

"As you know," it continued, "I was a faithful supporter of our embattled President to the bitter, sour end, stating even that I would be shot with him if necessary. Many wonderful people wrote me recommending this course."

In suggesting that Mr. Ford name Mr. Nixon as Vice President and then resign, the statement went on, "our 38th President will leave office with a spotless record and will have courageously taken one remarkable action for which he shall never be forgotten."

The false statement attributed to Mr. Ashbrook said he had "lately been disgusted and dismayed by the ranting of the pink fellow-travelers and liberal dupes in our great nation against the government of our military allies in the beleaguered land of Chile." The statement added:

"The military government—which has promised a return to Democratic formalities after their job is done—should be commended, not condemned, for their effort to return the resources—and workers—of Chile to their rightful American owners. The benefits for all concerned of this policy are obvious."

An aide to Speaker Albert said this evening that an investigation to find the person responsible for the hoax probably would take several days.

"It really is a very bad dirty trick," the aide said.