

Fulbright Hopes to Force Nixon's Advisers to Testify

By TERENCE SMITH MAR 1 1971
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WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 — Senator J. W. Fulbright, criticizing what he called the "total breakdown" of communication between Congress and the Administration on Vietnam, said today that he would submit a bill to compel the Secretary of State and other officials to appear before Congress to explain the Administration's policies.

Such a bill has become necessary, Mr. Fulbright said, because top Administration officials, such as Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger, have repeatedly refused requests that they testify before Congressional committees, including the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, of which the Arkansas Democrat is chairman.

"Rogers won't come," he said. "Kissinger won't appear. I think they ought to come.

"Why do they refuse? Because they know there are a number of people who don't agree with them, and it makes it embarrassing and they don't like it; they especially don't like to have it in front of television. This makes it available to everyone."

Mr. Fulbright made his remarks on the Columbia Broadcasting System's television program, "Face the Nation." He was one of three leading Democratic Senators who spoke out today in protest against the Administration's Indochina policy.

Mr. Fulbright also accused the Administration of carrying out a "well-developed program of undermining the credibility and position" of the critics of its Vietnam policy.

This was a reference to a

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letter recently sent out to publishers around the country by the White House. The letter contained a column by Joseph Alsop charging that Mr. Fulbright and others were "downright eager" to be proved right by an American defeat in Indochina.

In addition, John Lehman Jr., an official of the National Security Council, told a group of Senate staff members and foreign service officers recently that Mr. Fulbright could not be trusted with classified material.

The Senator said that he had written to Mr. Kissinger "asking him to clarify this matter and to come and discuss it and let us know where there had been any leaks of classified information."

"So far Mr. Kissinger hasn't seen fit to reply," Mr. Fulbright said.

Bombing Called Barbaric

The Administration's Indochina policy was also attacked by Senator George S. McGovern of South Dakota, the only announced candidate for the 1972 Democratic Presidential nomination, and Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota.

Senator McGovern, speaking on a local radio program, "Washington Window," charged that the massive United States bombing of Indochina was "the most barbaric act committed by any modern state since the death of Adolph Hitler."

He also said that the Nixon Administration's Vietnamization program failed to provide any provision for the release of the American prisoners held by North Vietnam.

Speaking on the National Broadcasting Company's "Meet the Press," Senator Humphrey took the President to task for proceeding too slowly with the withdrawal of American troops and for extending the fighting into Laos and Cambodia.

The 1968 Democratic Presidential candidate said he would have removed all American troops from Indochina by now if he had been elected.

Senators Humphrey and Fulbright also took issue with Mr. Nixon's decision not to accept the Soviet proposal for a mutual limitation of defensive missile systems. The Administration has been pressing instead for an agreement limiting both offensive and defensive strategic weapons.

The two Senators expressed the view that even an agree-

ment limited to anti-ballistic missile systems would be worth pursuing.

Discussing the bill he intends to submit to Congress, Mr. Fulbright said that its purpose would be to limit the Administration's use of "executive privilege" as an excuse for not testifying before Congressional committees.