

McGovern Scores Scott On Refugee Statement

United Press International

Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) bitterly attacked Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) yesterday in a floor speech that touched on Vietnam, the 1972 presidential campaign and Watergate.

A May 6 Scott statement about a McGovern bill which would allow Vietnamese refugees to return home was a "flagrant distortion" of the legislation, McGovern said.

Scott had termed the bill "a proposal that 90 per cent of the Vietnamese refugees be sent home . . . a people-killing measure and an official sanction by this government of murder in the first degree."

McGovern said the bill actually would authorize the United States to pay transportation expenses for any refugee who voluntarily requested to return to South Vietnam.

"Why then does Mr. Scott single me out for attack?" McGovern asked.

"Perhaps it is because he has been one of the loudest and most persistent cheerleaders for the Vietnam policy that sent 56,000 young Americans to their deaths, as well as millions of Vietnamese," McGovern said. "As such, he is

doubtless eager to strike out at someone who has tried to stop the killing in Vietnam during all those years when he himself was supporting it.

"He is the man who went on nationwide television during the closing weeks of the Watergate nightmare to tell the American people that, if they knew what he knew, they would know Nixon was innocent."

McGovern, the 1972 Democratic presidential nominee, said Scott was "one of the Nixon hatchet men" who "twisted" McGovern's campaign positions.

"I do not intend to let this long-time advocate of the killing in Vietnam, this bitter-end apologist for Richard Nixon's disgraceful conduct distort my position with regard to the Vietnamese refugees," McGovern said.

Scott, in a statement issued by his office, immediately invited McGovern to round up whatever Vietnamese he felt wanted to go home—and personally go back with them. Said Scott:

"Sen. McGovern has belatedly realized the effects of his original statement and seeks to divert attention by an attack on me.

"I will not further dignify this except to suggest that he mobilize, if he wishes, all those Vietnamese he says wish to go home, and that he may wish to personally escort them."