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SENATOR YOUNG 'Senile' GENERAL DelCORSO 'Skunk'

Sen. Young, 81, Squares Off

Washington

Senator Stephen Young (Dem-Ohio) traded charges of "skunk" and "senile old liar" with the head of the Ohio National Guard yesterday in an angry exchange over the fatal shooting of four Kent State University students.

"If he would call me a senile old liar to my face, I'd knock his false teeth down his gullet," said the 81-year-old Young.

Adjutant General Sylvester T. DelCorso called Young that after the Senator told colleagues that "trigger-happy" National Guardsmen opened fire on the students after one soldier's rifle was discharged accidentally.

Young, in a later Senate speech, made public a letter from a Vietnam veteran who witnessed the shooting Monday and branded it as murder.

Jon T. Oplinger of Akron, Ohio, now a Kent student, wrote, "The guardsmen, very deliberately and it seemed under orders, took aim and fired a well-controlled volley toward the crowd of students."

"... Had I witnessed this event in Vietnam, I would have regarded it as murder, and I cannot help but do so now," the letter said.

DelCorso, in a statement in Columbus, Ohio, labeled Young's assertion about the guardsmen as unfounded, inflammatory and hearsay. He said the Ohio senator is a "senile old liar."

Young said DelCorso is "a 2-by-4 politician," and added, "My father told me never to get into a spraying contest with a skunk."

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