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Democratic Senator John Stennis from Mississippi, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, was interviewed today on the ABC program, "Issues and Answers." He said that President Nixon is considering some new moves to combat the North Vietnamese offensive.

He said, "This is a crucial, critical time," but he said that there is nothing the U.S. can do quickly to support the South Vietnamese. He said increased American air support, including the renewed bombing of Hanoi or Haiphong, or the blockade of the Haiphong harbor, would not provide immediate relief to the South Vietnamese troops. He said the only thing the U.S. could do now is, in his words, "damage North Vietnam's will to win." He said that bombing dikes in North Vietnam might do that.

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The North Vietnamese would have "a running start to Saigon if Hue falls," Senator John Stennis said yesterday [on "Issues and Answers "].

The Mississippi Democrat, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, indicated that the fall of the South Vietnamese former imperial capital "could be the big push" that would topple the Thieu government.

Increased American air support, Stennis said, even the renewed bombing of Hanoi or Haiphong or the blockade of the Haiphong harbor, would not provide immediate relief to the South Vietnamese troops. They must now stand and fight themselves, Stennis said.

"It's up to the South Vietnamese," he said.

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