

# Bombing Memo Called a 'Crumb'

## Washington

Senator Harold E. Hughes (Dem-Iowa) said yesterday the top secret document on Cambodian bombing released Thursday by the Pentagon may be "a crumb off the table to keep us from getting the real meat."

Hughes, in an interview, described the document as "very damaging" to former Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird, and said he was surprised the Pentagon released it to the Senate Armed Services committee.

However, Hughes said his prime objective still is to obtain the Nixon administration's original order for the secret, 14-month bombing of Cambodia that began March 18, 1969.

He called the Pentagon's claim that it can't locate the original order "incredible."

At the Pentagon, mean-

while, Defense Department spokesman William Beecher said the original bombing order may have been given orally, with no written record kept.

Thursday's document, a memorandum dated Nov. 20, 1969, provided the first official link between Laird and the false reporting of the clandestine bombing campaign. It showed that Laird ordered the designation of "cover targets" in South Vietnam as a camouflage for B-52 bombing raids on Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia.

Hughes said:

"If they've got such a lousy classification system in the 'eyes only-top secret' category and they can find only one strange document from November lying around it's pretty damning. All of that stuff has got to be together."

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