

Lavelle Solely Instigated Strikes, Says Air Chief

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25 (AP) — Air Force Chief of Staff, John D. Ryan, in testimony before Senate committee, singled out Lieut. Gen. John D. Lavelle as the sole instigator of unauthorized air attacks against North Vietnam.

In response to remarks by Senator Harold Hughes, Democrat of Iowa, General Ryan said: "We found others who were exposed to it, but in your words, the bad apple was the head apple."

Despite that assessment, General Ryan said that relief of his command was adequate punishment for General Lavelle. He said that he did not think that a court-martial would be appropriate and that he thought no one else should be punished.

General Lavelle was relieved as commander of the Seventh Air Force for conducting 28 raids before the White House renewed heavy bombing this year.

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