

TV Interview Hit

Senator Denounces Trial for Calley

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — Sen. Ernest Hollings denounced the Army today for proceeding with plans to try Lt. William Calley for murder in the alleged massacre of South Vietnamese villagers early last year.

Another senator, Peter Dominick, accused the Columbia Broadcasting System of jeopardizing Calley's right to a fair trial by carrying an interview with a former member of Calley's unit who said the lieutenant ordered

the shooting of civilians at Song My.

In a Senate speech, Hollings asked if the Army's decision to try Calley meant all soldiers who committed a "mistake in judgment" under pressure of combat were "going to be tried as common criminals, as murderers?"

"Are we going to take every helicopter pilot, and pilot of a B52 that hits the wrong target and call him a murderer?" he demanded.

Attacks CBS

Dominick denounced CBS for broadcasting an interview with Paul Meadlo, a member of the platoon led by Calley at the time of the March, 1968, incident.

"I have never been so upset over any newscast I have ever seen," Dominick said, contending that Meadlo's rights, Calley's rights and the opportunities for a fair trial had been jeopardized by the interview.

"He said he had personally participated in the murder of some of these men, some of these women and some of these children," the senator said.

"He specifically mentioned the name of the man who is under indictment," Dominick said with reference to Army charges against Calley.

Probe Urged

He said the interview carried the possibility of creating such an "atmosphere of guilt" that "we may not even be able to get a fair trial."

Meanwhile, two other senators have called for a congressional investigation into the alleged massacre.

And Majority leader Mike Mansfield says there must be a government inquiry because "there's been so much smoke."

But Mansfield said any Senate investigation should wait until after the court martial ordered for Calley.

Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.) urged investigations by both the Pentagon and the Senate, while Sen. Stephen Young (D-Ohio) said he has asked for an immediate investigation by the Senate Armed Services Committee. It seemed unlikely the panel would take up the alleged mass killings while a court martial inquiry is in progress.