

# Stennis Decries Moves To Curb Nixon on War

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WASHINGTON, May 13 — Senator John C. Stennis, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, declared today that there would be "great jubilation" in Moscow, Peking and Hanoi if the Senate restricted the President's authority to conduct war in Southeast Asia.

At the same time, the leaders of two veterans' organizations opened an attack on the patriotism of Senators sponsoring legislation intended to withhold funds for future military actions in Cambodia, Laos and South Vietnam.

J. Milton Patrick, national commander of the American Legion, and Ray Gallagher, national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, told reporters in the Senate Press Gallery that the proposed measures submitted as amendments to pending bills, would "amount to a declaration of surrender to Communist forces and constitute a stab in the back for our boys in combat."

The appearance of the two veterans' leaders in the Senate Press Gallery — where news conferences are normally given only by Senators — was arranged at the request of the White House, according to an aide to Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Republican leader. Senator Scott escorted the two men to the press gallery and then left before they made their statements and answered questions.

Mr. Patrick and Mr. Gallagher came with a prepared statement in which they specifically criticized Senators Frank Chur, Democrat of Idaho, John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, J. W. Fulbright, Demo-

crat of Arkansas, and George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota," and others who follow their actions, as prime movers of legislation which would assure the humiliation of the United States and pose a direct threat to the safety of our forces disengaging from the Vietnam conflict."

The White House acknowledged that it had helped to arrange for the news conference but disavowed any association with their statements.

The White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said the two had talked earlier with White House officials and had expressed a desire to speak out "strongly" against the proposed amendments. According to Mr. Ziegler, the White House officials suggested that the two talk to such Senate Republican leaders as Senator Scott. According to the aide to Mr. Scott, "the White House asked Senator Scott to bring them to the press gallery."

Senator Stennis's comments were made at another news conference in the Senate Press Gallery, in which the Mississippi Democrat strenuously criticized what he interpreted as legislative attempts to curtail the President's authority as Commander in Chief in time of war.

His particular target was an amendment by Senators Cooper and Church that would restrain the President from spending funds for "retaining" American forces in Cambodia, for providing military advisers or mercenaries to the Cambodian Government or providing combat air support for Cambodian forces.