

APR 17 1972

Sf Examiner

# Nixon on Bombing Necessity

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — President Nixon visited the capitol today in the midst of heated debate on renewed U.S. bombing of North Vietnam and reportedly told a congressman, "You have to let them have it when they jump on you."

Nixon's remark, his first public comment since the weekend bombing of Hai-phong and Hanoi, was reported by Rep. William Jennings Bryan Dorn (D-S.C.).

The President chatted for a few moments with Dorn after attending a luncheon given by Rep. William Colmer (D-Miss.).

The President thanked Dorn for supporting the Administration's Vietnam policy. He then made a fist, gave Dorn a friendly tap on the shoulder and spoke a

few words that were not completely audible to reporters standing by.

Later Dorn told a reporter what Nixon had said, apparently with reference to the raids.

Nixon's visit to the Capitol was coincidental with sharp attacks on him and the bombing.

Some of it, he heard, much he didn't.

At the moment the President was arriving for the luncheon, critics and defenders of his policy were waging an emotional debate one floor above, in the House chamber. Debate also was going on in the Senate.

Some were calling on their colleagues to restrain and censure Nixon. Supporters claimed the escalated bombing was necessary to protect remaining U.S. troops and to prevent a Communist takeover of South Vietnam.