

Fulbright's New Attack On Pentagon

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Washington

Senator J. William Fulbright charged yesterday that the Defense Department had displaced the State Department as the primary formulator of American foreign policy, particularly in Southeast Asia.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee described the Allied incursion into Cambodia last May as "essentially a Defense Department decision," and said that the secretary of state had played a secondary role at best in that and other major decisions.

On the making of foreign policy, Fulbright said, "The military establishment . . . runs nearly the whole country."

In a fast-moving interview on the Columbia Broadcasting system's "Face the Nation," the Arkansas Democrat accused Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird of misrepresenting the facts when he testified before his committee last week on the extent of the United States bombing in North Vietnam.

"They misrepresent the facts; obviously he did and they do it all the time," the senator said.

ATTEMPT

Laird testified for 2½ hours before the committee last Tuesday on the attempt to free United States prisoners from North Vietnam without mentioning the

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bombing that was carried out near Hanoi in connection with the raid.

The details of that bombing the Pentagon initially had said that U.S. warplanes had stayed below the 19th Parallel — were only disclosed Friday after President Nixon let word of it slip at a White House dinner for wounded Vietnam veterans on Thursday.

The defense secretary was not available for comment on the senator's remarks, but the assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, Daniel Z. Henkin, noted that Laird had responded to all of the senator's questions. "He gave a factual report of what happened," Henkin said.

INFLUENCE

Discussing the Defense Department's role in foreign power give it sweeping influence over most of the administration's important decisions. Laird and Henry Kissinger, the president's special adviser on national security, he said, far outweigh Secretary of State William P. Rogers in the formulation of foreign policy.

Asked whether this might be the result of a difference in style among the three men, Fulbright shot back: "I don't think \$80 billion a year (the defense budget) is a matter of style. In our kind of economy, this is muscle, this is influence, this is power. It controls everything that goes on in our government to a great extent. It's the primary control."

As a result of this, the senator said, Roger's role in making foreign policy has become "subsidiary," and the diplomatic complications involved in a raid similar to the one on the POW camp last weekend are seldom considered.

To correct this situation, Fulbright said, a Secretary of State would have to be a "genius" to overcome "20 years of steady growth of the

military establishment" and "their extremely complex and far-reaching propaganda machine."

On another point, the senator took issue with Rogers on the question of whether, as the secretary testified last week, the Nixon Administration was winding down the war in Vietnam.

"It seems to me it's more intense," Fulbright said.

SOLUTION

Later he added that President Nixon probably wanted a negotiated solution to the war as much as anyone else, but that the steps he was taking, such as the Cambodian incursion, were "simply not calculated to bring it about."

Fulbright indicated that it doesn't matter whether the Senate rejects the administration's request for nearly \$283 million for aid to Cambodia.

"Even if he (Nixon) gets no money I'm not sure we can deny him the money," Fulbright said. "Just to be honest about it, if he wishes to do it if this bill fails they'd still probably get the money from other sources."

"He's already shifted \$100 million to Cambodia and spent it without the slightest authority," although it was done under normal procedures, Fulbright said.

"We were told the last thing they would do was go in there and support (Premier) Lon Nol's (Cambodia) government with vast arrays of machines and so on and people, but not that's exactly what they're asking to do."

He said, "They're following almost the same tactics, the same procedures the Johnson administration did. I see very little difference."

Fulbright said that except for the troop withdrawals, there is no difference between the John and Nixon administration policies on Southeast Asia.

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