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McGovern Says Nixon Ignored Kin of P.O.W.'s

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MILWAUKEE, March 28 — Senator George McGovern accused President Nixon today of "Shabby" treatment of the families of prisoners of war by failing to answer letters from them if they contain criticism of his Vietnam policies.

"It is unexcusable that our President can publicly feign sympathy for the wives and families of our prisoners of war, yet privately refuse to even acknowledge their letters if the letters contain an element of criticism," the South Dakota Democrat said here at a news conference.

One of those appearing with the South Dakota Democrat was Mrs. Valerie Kushner, of Danville, Va., whose husband, Army Maj. Harold Kushner, has been a prisoner of the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam since 1967.

Mrs. Kushner made public an exchange of correspondence with Brig. Gen. James D. Hughes, former military assistant to President Nixon.

In response to one letter in which Mrs. Kushner sought to find out why Mr. Nixon had not answered a previous letter, General Hughes wrote:

"Frankly, I saw no purpose in replying to your December letter to the President since his policies with regard to prisoners and missing had been made public and you and the others who wrote the letter obviously do not agree with them."

Senator McGovern, who

spent the day in Milwaukee and Kenosha pressing his campaign for the April 4 Wisconsin Presidential primary, told newsmen that "the truth is that only by ending the war can we get our prisoners of war released" and that continued bombing in Southeast Asia "insures that American prisoners will remain in their cells." The White House had no immediate comment.