Senators' Mail Runs Heavily Anti-Bombing

By Spencer Rich
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Mail to senators is running heavily against President Nixon's December escalation of the North Vietnam bombing, according to a Washington Post survey of 32 Senate offices.

Even senators who have been strong supporters of the President's Vietnam policies are receiving volumes of mail opposing the 12 days of unlimited bombing in mid-December. Not a single office reported a balance in favor of the bombing, and only three reported an even split between pro-bombing and anti-bombing letters.

Mail to both Maryland Republican senators has been overwhelmingly critical of Mr. Nixon's policy. Sen. Charles McC. Mathias Jr. has received 3,000 letters opposing the bombing and only 100 favoring it. An aide to Sen. J. Glenn Beall said "Mail is running 8 or 10 to 1 against the bombing."

Virginia's Sen. Harry F. Byrd (Ind.) had a ratio of mail 12 to 1 against the bombing for several weeks. This has now tailed off to 5 to 4 against, an aide said. The office of Sen. William L. Scott (R-Va.) said his mail has been about 50-50.

To the question, "How is your mail running on the Vietnam bombing?"

Other offices gave these responses:

Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) — About 70 letters a day with a ratio of 9 to 1 against the bombing.

Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) — About 3 to 2 against.

Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.) — About 9 to 1 against.

Russell B. Long (D-La.) — 44 against, 17 for.

Bennett Johnston (D-La.) — "Overwhelmingly against."

James L. Buckely (Cons.-R-N.Y.) — "Virtually all against, now tapering off."

Carl T. Curtis (R-Neb.) — "9 to 1 against; unusual."

Bob Dole (R-Kan.) — "Several hundred; high ratio against."

James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) —about 50-50, though very few letters. But we're getting plenty against cancelling of agriculture funds."

John Stennis (D-Miss.) — "Not much on the bombing, but plenty on agricultural cuts."

Robert L. Stafford (R-Vt.) — "About 100 to 1 against."

Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) — "Not real heavy; about 3 to 1 in favor of Vietnam fund cutoff" because of opposition to bombing.

Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) — "90 percent against bombing."

Peter Domenici (R-N.M.) — "5 to 1 against."

Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) — "100 to 1 against; 6,000 a week."

William B. Saxbe (R-Ohio) — "8,050 opposed, 350 for."

Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) — "315 against bombing, 15 for."

John Tower (R-Tex.) — "About 50-50" based on 450 letters over the past 10 days.

Lloyd M. Bentsen (D-Tex.) — "421 against bombing and war, 100 who support President."

Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) — "Not many, but4 to 1 against."

Edward J. Gurney (R-Fla.) — Majority against, very few for.

John Sparkman (D-Ala.) — "60 to 40 ratio against."

Bill Brock (R-Tenn.) — "About 4 to 1 against."

Howard H. Baker (R-Tenn.) — "Overwhelmingly against — between 300 and 500 against, 24 fr."

Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) — "540 against, 40 for."

Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.) "Since Dec. 1, 466 against, 15 for."

Marlow W. Cook (R-Ky.) — About 4 to 1 against.

Clifford P. Hansen (R-Wyo.) — 20 for "end-the-war" legislation, 3 backing president.