

POW families to get burial expenses

Associated Press

KEY BISCAIYNE — President Nixon signed a bill yesterday paying for transportation of families attending burial services of prisoners of war or those missing in action.

The legislation was introduced by Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.) after he read a newspaper article about the California widow of a Navy pilot, Capt. John Abbott, who had died while a prisoner in North Vietnam.

The widow, Cecile Abbott of Sacramento, said she would have to pay for herself and her 12-year-old son to travel to her hus-

band's burial at Arlington National Cemetery. His body has been released by the North Vietnamese two weeks earlier.

Mrs. Abbott noted that money was paid for living POWs and their families to attend a White House party.

Until now, the Pentagon has had no authority to pay for travel and funeral-connected expenses for dead servicemen's families.

The new measure applies only to families of dead POWs from the Vietnam war. It covers widows, parents, children, stepchildren and adoptive parents.