

PAPER ON COAST ESCAPES ACTION

U.S. Also Says It Won't Act
Now Against Knight Chain

By LINDA CHARLTON

The Justice Department announced yesterday that it would not take legal action "at this time" against The Los Angeles Times and the 11-newspaper Knight chain, which yesterday published articles said to be based on secret Government documents.

The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Boston Globe remained under court orders not to publish any further articles drawn from the Pentagon study on the origins of the Vietnam war.

John C. Hushen, a spokesman for the Justice Department, said in Washington late yesterday that the department had reviewed the articles that appeared in The Los Angeles Times and at least seven of the Knight papers and had decided that "they do not constitute any threat to national security."

Opinion Unchanged

He added that "we find no reason to change our opinion" about the nature of the material appearing in The Chicago Sun-Times, which on Wednesday began publishing articles reportedly based on secret Government documents. The department had said, after reviewing the first articles, that the documents had been declassified. That judgment, according to Mr. Hushen, was unchanged by the articles in yes-

terday's issues of The Sun-Times.

Mr. Hushen was asked what action the Justice Department would take if further articles in the Los Angeles and Chicago papers and those of the Knight chain should be felt to present a "threat to national security."

"We'll cross that bridge when we come to it," he said.

Lee Hills, the executive editor of the Knight Newspaper Group, said that the chain had "no plan at this moment to publish further material from the Pentagon papers." A spokesman for the group said that, unlike the three papers enjoined from further publication, no one from the Justice Department had even requested that the material not be published.

Two More Articles

The Sun-Times, however, published two articles in its Friday issue, which was on the newsstands late yesterday afternoon, that were reportedly based on a number of sources, including the Pentagon, the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency.

James F. Hoge, editor of The Sun-Times, said that some of the source documents were classified and some were not.

The latest articles in The Sun-Times with events during the Eisenhower Administration. Those in the Knight newspapers focused on Robert S. McNamara, the Secretary of Defense, and the progress of the war in 1967 and early 1968. In both cases, the articles came from the Washington bureau of the newspapers.

The Knight papers referred only to information "made available to Knight newspapers." Derick Daniels, a senior Knight editor in Detroit

who supervised the project, refused to discuss the articles, the amount of material received or its source.

The Sun-Times said initially that its material had come from the Commission of Inquiry into U.S. War Crimes in Vietnam. When asked how long the articles would continue, Thomas B. Ross, the Chicago paper's Washington bureau chief, said: "We're open-ended."

Articles Widely Published

A random check of several major newspapers across the country indicated that, so far as was possible, they were publishing as much as was available about the so-called Pentagon papers. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, The Atlantic Constitution, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Louisville Courier-Journal and The Milwaukee Journal all said they had used news agency articles. The Minneapolis Tribune has used rewritten versions of combined news agency articles.

The San Diego Union, of which Herbert G. Klein, President Nixon's assistant for press relations, was editor from 1959 to 1968, used combined articles with banner headlines on three occasions.

The Boston Globe was allowed to resume publishing articles supplied by news services and based on the new disclosures published elsewhere when an earlier Federal court order — prohibiting any mention of the contents of such disclosures — was amended. A hearing is scheduled for today on an order by Federal Judge Anthony Julian barring The Globe from publishing additional stories based on its own documents.

6-25-71
NYT