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GOP Asks Discipline for Gravel

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Republicans demanded today that the Democrats discipline maverick Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska), for disclosing the secret Pentagon Papers on Vietnam in "apparent" violation of the Senate's rules.

GOP Leader Hugh Scott called Gravel a jackass without using the word. He said the Alaskan was "a very wild one of the free roaming wild burros who has strayed from the reservation."

Gravel, 41, a handsome freshman with a flair for the dramatic, boycotted the Senate for the first time in eight weeks and secluded himself

in his home in suburban Maryland.

Plan Abandoned

For the time being, he abandoned his intention to read the remaining documents in his possession on the Senate floor and into the public record, accessible to anyone.

Gravel tried to do that last night, but floundered on a parliamentary maneuver which permitted Senate Republican Whip Robert Griffin to force him into a three-and-a-half hour silence while a clerk monotonously called the roll. Gravel then gave up his at-

tempt to deliver a 30-hour nonstop speech in which he intended to read the documents into the record. But he called a rump session of the one Senate subcommittee he chairs, the Public Works Subcommittee on buildings and Grounds.

In a hoarse voice, he emotionally read from the documents for nearly three hours until 1:10 a.m. EDR today, when he broke down in tears and had to stop.

He started crying after reading this paragraph from a speech he had intended to deliver in the Senate: "The greatest representa-

tive democracy the world has ever known, the nation of Washington and Jefferson and Lincoln, has had its nose rubbed in the swamp by petty war lords, jealous Vietnamese generals, black marketers and grand scale dope pushers. We have been the victims."

Public Record

By calling a rump session of the subcommittee, Gravel sought to wrap himself and the documents he possessed — about half of the entire 47-volume study — in Congressional immunity and to make the documents part of the public record.

Nonetheless, Scott told reporters that Gravel had "apparently violated Senate Rule 36, which provides that "all confidential communications made by the President of the United States to the Senate" shall be kept secret.

Gravel's aides argued Gravel had not violated the rule because he had obtained the documents independently. An aide to Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) said they came from Daniel Ellsberg through a "middle man." Ellsberg, a former Pentagon official, has been charged with theft of government property.