

Senator Hughes Asks Public Military Spy Hearings; Breaks With Stennis on Closed Kissinger Session

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 3. — Senator Harold E. Hughes called today for public hearings by the Senate Armed Services Committee into published allegations that military officers participated in a spying operation inside the White House for 15 months in 1970 and 1971.

In an unusual public break with Senator John C. Stennis, the committee chairman, Mr. Hughes criticized the announced committee plans to summon Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of State Kissinger to a closed hearing Wednesday.

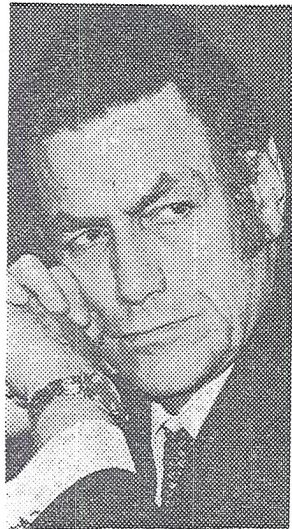
"No once-over-lightly in executive session with Admiral Moorer or Kissinger is going to suffice," the Iowa Democrat said. "There's going to have to be a thorough staff investigation into this and every witness who's been mentioned thus far should be called."

The New York Times reported in today's editions that the military spying inside the White House began in the fall of 1970, shortly after Adm. Moorer became chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and more than a year earlier than was previously known.

The Times's account said that as many as five high-ranking officers assigned to Admiral Moorer's Pentagon offices were involved regularly in receiving and delivering "eyes only" cables and other National Security Council material that had been pilfered by Yeoman 1st Cl. Charles E. Radford.

Inquiry on Bombing

Senator Hughes, who was instrumental in last summer's committee investigation of the secret B-52 bombing of Cam-



United Press International
Harold E. Hughes

bodia, said he would urge the committee to summon as witnesses Petty Officer Radford as well as David R. Young Jr., the former White House "plumber" who wrote a report on the military spying in early 1972.

"It's the job of the Armed Services Committee to do this in its oversight capacity," Mr. Hughes said. "The stakes are very high here. This involves the ability of the Chief Executive and his advisers to be in command of an operation and to keep to themselves whatever information they have."

"If we did anything less than a thorough investigation," he said, "I believe we would not be doing our job for the Senate and the country."

The Senator urged that the hearings be opened to the public and the press "as soon as possible." He acknowledged that some of the materials

allegedly pilfered were highly classified; but that fact, he said, did not necessarily preclude open hearings. "Everything that should be open I want open," he said.

'Active Role' of Moorer

High officials in the White House and the Pentagon have repeatedly discounted the spying allegations since they were disclosed in mid-January. It was the 1971 plumbers' investigation into the reported spying that, White House officials have acknowledged, was one of the "national security" issues invoked by President Nixon last spring when he attempted to halt the Watergate investigation.

Mr. Young, who has since been indicted for his role in the September, 1971, burglary of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist, is known to have compiled a dossier on the spying activities. Reliable sources have said that Mr. Young's report concluded that Admiral Moorer played an active role in the funneling of the unauthorized White House documents to his office.

Last week Senator Stennis announced the closed committee hearings. He noted in a statement that he had met privately with Admiral Moorer, Mr. Kissinger, Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger, the White House chief of staff, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., and Rear Adm. Robert O. Welander. Admiral Welander was Petty Officer Radford's immediate superior in the White House and one of the officers known to have been involved in relaying the unauthorized documents.

Mr. Stennis's decision not to summon Mr. Young and Petty Officer Radford immediately is

known to have provoked sharp debate among committee members last week, but until today there had been no public complaint.

Asked if he was challenging Mr. Stennis, Senator Hughes—a liberal who announced last year that he would not run for re-election in 1974—said: "The only thing I can do is talk to the chairman as I already have and ask for a complete investigation as I already have. The chairman has not excluded that possibility and I believe that once he reads what's been published about this he will agree."

Senator Hughes said he would urge that the committee be given a copy of Mr. Young's report. A number of high-ranking Government officials have described Mr. Young's conclusions as overstated and one official termed them "ludicrous."

Admiral Moorer initially denied any knowledge of the unauthorized passing of documents but later conceded that he had received "a file" of material. Other sources have told The Times, however, that hundreds of documents were provided to the Admiral in late 1970 and throughout 1971. The White House was negotiating secretly with China, North Vietnam and the Soviet Union during that time.

Mr. Kissinger revealed last month that he listened in late 1971 to a tape recording of an interrogation of Admiral Welander conducted by Mr. Young in which the Admiral described the military spying operation.

The plumbers began their investigation after secret White House documents on the India-Pakistan war were published in December, 1971, by Jack Anderson, the columnist. That investigation soon led to the spying allegations.