SFChronicle Use of Troops Wasn't Reported

Washington

President Nixon's failure to report to Congress his use of American military forces to evacuate Americans from war-torn Cyprus violated the new War Powers Resolution, Senator Thomas F. Eagleton (Dem-Mo.) said yesterday.

Mr. Nixon "failed this first major test" of the new law, even though the Cyprus rescue mission was universally supported and the military's work laudatory, Eagleton said.

But the popularity of the

action is what makes it dangerous, he said.

If rescuers had been shot down, requiring a levy of backup troops, or if Mr. Nixon had used the initial popularity to drop paratroopers behind lines, the mission could "have evolved into a serious involvement." into a serious involvement by the United States."

The resolution requires a written report within 48 hours to Congress by a President advising that U.S. troops have entered a hostile area.

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