

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE  
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510  
(202) 225-8947

129

\*For Immediate Release\*

Floor Statement by U.S. Sen. Bob Dole  
May 6, 1971

### IMPOSTOR UNMASKED

MR. DOLE. Mr. President, Substantial attention was paid recently to a group of veterans who assembled in Washington to protest against the war. Their arrival was well publicized by the news media, and several members of Congress and others endorsed their activities. Some generated considerable publicity for themselves by nighttime forays into the veterans' encampment, but I wonder if some are having second thoughts about their activities in light of a disclosure involving one of the supposed leaders of the veterans group.

On Monday Walter Cronkite, reporting on CBS radio, disclosed that this leader and others in the movement were engaging in bold-faced deception and were misrepresenting this individual's military record -- including his rank, his service and the source of his service-connected disability. I ask unanimous consent that a transcript of this report by Walter Cronkite which was broadcast on CBS radio May 3, 1971, be printed in the record at this point.

I certainly agree with Mr. Cronkite's observation that this fraudulent misrepresentation casts doubt on the leadership -- if not on the fundamental motivation -- of the protest movement.

I should think this revelation would be cause for some reconsideration by any supporter of this and other demonstrations; for if these organizers and their spokesmen do not furnish truthful biographical information about themselves, how can they be expected to be candid about their protest activities and motivations?

This incident underlines another and equally disturbing fact in contemporary American life: the readiness of the news media, especially network television, to lend credibility, dignity, and publicity to every anti-military, peace-andering movement or self-styled spokesman appearing at the studio doors.

This same Al Hubbard was lionized along with another "leader" of the Vietnam veterans against the war on the April 18 NBC news program Meet The Press.

At this point in my remarks, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the record part of the transcript of the April 18, 1971 Meet The Press program.

It is regrettable that neither the program director nor any of the panelists felt it necessary to inquire about Hubbard's credentials. They might not have gotten a straight answer, but at least an effort would have been made. However, it is inexcusable that NBC news in preparing this program was willing to swallow the pretensions of an unknown, un-vouched-for radical, and present him to

Page 2

the American people as a former Air Force officer and pilot.

This incident is not only an example of shoddy journalism and careless reporting; it is further vivid testimony to the prejudices and hunger for sensationalism at work in the broadcasting networks.

Little could be done to diminish the impact of Meet The Press' role in the Al Hubbard Masquerade. Retraction is always less effective than the original publication. But the American people have a legitimate right to expect more from NBC news than the lax standards and carelessness it exhibited in producing its supposedly "distinguished" interview program.

I do not dispute NBC's right to permit anyone of its choosing to appear on Meet The Press or any other news program. But I do believe that NBC -- just as CBS, ABC, and any newspaper or magazine -- owes the public a duty of accuracy and responsibility in the presentation of individuals and information through its auspices. NBC obviously failed to meet its duty in this case.