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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 6, 1971 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole today spoke out against the "prejudices and hunger for sensationalism at work in the broadcasting networks."

Dole, in a statement on the Senate floor, commented directly about an NBC show, Meet the Press, broadcast April 18, that "lionized" a leader of the "Vietnam Veterans Against the War" group, Al Hubbard.

Hubbard had claimed to be a former Air Force Captain with 12 years service who had been wounded in action while flying in Vietnam. NBC identified him on Meet the Press as just that and made no attempt to challenge his credibility.

On May 3, Dole pointed out, Walter Cronkite on CBS news disclosed that Hubbard was in fact lying about "part of that story." Hubbard had in fact been a sergeant with 14 years service in the Air Force with no record of having ever served in Vietnam for an extended period of time.

Dole said, "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-pandering movement or self-styled spokesman appearing at the studio doors."

The Kansas Senator said, "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 the American people as a former Air Force officer and pilot."

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Dole concluded, "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."

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