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Floor Statement by U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) June 23, 1971

DOLE APPLAUDS NIXON

FOR RELEASE OF

McNAMARA PAPERS

I voice the sentiment of most of my colleagues in expressing satisfaction over the fact that the President is sending to the Congress the 47 volumes of the so-called McNamara papers as well as a classified study of the Gulf of Tonkin incident that led to the almost unanimous resolution that allowed President Johnson unlimited authority to escalate the fighting in Vietnam.

It is in the best interests of the American people that their chosen representatives be given a look at these documents, unedited and unexpurgated by the press. I am confident that those in the Congress charged with studying them will walk the extra mile to avoid the release of information damaging to our nation or our relationships with other nations.

This is the proper approach. It is not a proper approach to steal documents, to leak their contents, or to accept and print the information one may find in such stolen property.

This is not a question of freedom of the press. It is a question of honesty, integrity and putting the interests of one's country ahead of personal gain or self-satisfaction.

The President is to be congratulated on taking this wise and logical step and in bringing the Congress into partnership in this vital area.