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STATINTL

WHERE'S THE EVIDENCE

Fulbright Urged to Tell 'All' About Tonkin Gulf

CPYRGHT

A Republican senator yesterday urged Sen. J. William Fulbright (D., Ark.), to reveal all he knows about the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident of Viet Nam.

Sen. Milward Simpson (R., Wyo.), told the Senate that Sen. Fulbright had raised a fundamental challenge to the Johnson Administration's position on what happened in the Gulf of Tonkin in August, 1964.

The Administration's claim that American destroyers were attacked in international waters by North Vietnamese torpedo

boats led to passage of the Tonkin Resolution which President Johnson has cited as a congressional mandate to fight communist aggression in Southeast Asia.

QUOTES HEARING

Sen. Simpson said Sen. Fulbright, at a hearing of his Senate Foreign Relations Committee May 9, claimed "... there has come to my attention suggestions that the whole affair was very questionable as to the character of the attack upon our ships on the high seas."

The Wyoming senator further quoted Sen. Fulbright as saying that the whole purpose of the resolution was to inflame persons during an election year.

Asked about the Simpson speech, Sen. Fulbright said only that he had received a memorandum from an unidentified retired admiral questioning the validity of the Administration's explanation of the Gulf of Tonkin attacks.

LACKS EVIDENCE

"Obviously, there is no way for me or anyone else to prove the contrary to what they assert," he said. "I never asserted that I had evidence of anything."