

Morse Breaks Calm, Hits Kennedy Stand

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The Republicans on Capitol Hill have been quiet about the Cuban fiasco because President Kennedy has been taking their leaders one by one into camp. The Democrats have been quiet, presumably because there was nothing they could say.

But nobody expected this unnatural silence to continue indefinitely, while downtown, various administration officials in a series of off-the-record briefings have been explaining to their friends how it happened.

Yesterday, perhaps inevitably, Senator Morse, Democrat of Oregon, a trusty dissenter and one of the Senate's most durable and frequent orators, shattered the false calm. With "a heavy heart," he berated the President for not having taken Congress into his confidence on the Cuban invasion.

"Colossal Mistake"

He called our logistical support of the rebels "a colossal mistake, which cannot be justified under international law and sound foreign policy and in the interest of keeping the peace in this hemisphere."

He thus became the first member of the President's party to criticize him publicly for his handling of the Cuban adventure and so broke the spell of approval which has surrounded the President since his inauguration on January 20.

Deplors Udall Speech

The Senator's strictures came just after the leaders of both parties had joined in deploring the defense of President Kennedy by Interior Secretary Stuart Udall, who on a Sunday television program said the invasion plans were a legacy from the Eisenhower administration.

Minority Leader Dirksen said he hoped Mr. Udall did not wish to be "Secretary of the Exterior" too, and Majority Leader Mansfield agreed it was "no time to look for scapegoats."

But Senator Morse found a scapegoat at the top, for, he said, had the President consulted members of the Foreign Affairs Committee and partic-

ularly the Senate Subcommittee on Latin-American Affairs, of which he is chairman, "the mistake might not have been made."

The gist of the speech the Senator had given in an Indiana appearance Sunday night. In the Senate he added the disclosure that he had wired Secretary of State Rusk, telling him it would be "a constructive administration policy to at least touch base with members of Congress before, rather than after the fact."

Some personal as well as constitutional pique was expressed by the Senator from Oregon, who said he had appeared on the Dave Garroway show last week and had told his audience we were not involved in the Cuban invasion, basing his expression on statements by the President and the Secretary of State. He was "very much chagrined" to find out he had been mistaken.

The consultation with some members of Congress because of their position of leadership "at some White House conference," the Senator said, could never be a substitute for discussion with members of those committees directly involved in foreign policy.

For the future, the Senator said he would not join with those who are now "waving the flag to tatters, showing the emotionalism of the moment and all for so-called direct action."

"We would win the war and lose the peace," he declared. "We would defeat Cuba and lose the rest of Latin-America for years to come."

"Cuba," he said, "is not a dagger at our hearts, but a thorn in our flesh, irritating and painful."

He reminded the Senate that

the charter of the Organization of American States, of which we are a signer, prohibits any intervention, direct or indirect, in the internal affairs of any other member state.

Senator Morse said he did not propose to criticize the Central Intelligence Agency, "because I know the man in charge."

The Senator's speech lasted for an hour and thirty-eight minutes. By the time he had finished his address, the floor had dwindled to about 100 members. At one point several stood seeking to speak, but the Senator would not yield. There was no way of knowing whether they stood in support or dissent.

