

2-20-1970

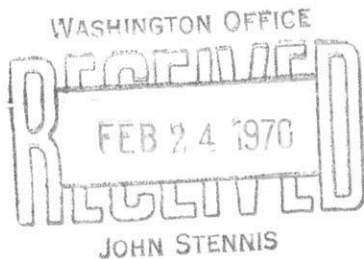
Correspondence, John C. Stennis, February 20-March 16, 1970

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[REDACTED]
Gulfport, Miss. 39501

20 February 1970

Honorable John C. Stennis
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Stennis:

First, to thank you and express my appreciation for what you have already done for me personally, and for Mississippi and the Nation as a whole; congratulations on your recent victory.

The next two subjects are also dear to me and of great interest to others of Mississippi, especially of the veterans, not only in Mississippi but the United States:

(1) The United States trains their military forces for one purpose. To defend their country, stay alive while they are defending themselves and come home safe. The Officers and men who are now in great danger of Courts Martial for doing, instinctively, what they were trained to do, are subjected to a great injustice. As you know, the "Reds" use these tactics of using women and children to achieve their objective and slaughter our men. A weapon in the hands of women and children can, and will, kill just as dead as any trained soldier can do. Do not persecute our men for doing their jobs!!

(2) The ones who were lucky enough to live through two (and some of them three) wars and earned their retirement are being done an injustice. We were promised, and it was law at that time, that retired pay would be based on the pay of military personnel on active duty and would be raised accordingly when a pay raise was authorized. The following year after my retirement, the law was changed! When I say "I", I feel that I am speaking for all retired veterans who have been "done out of" what they worked for, earned, promised, and expected.

I know you are too busy to be bothered by one man's opinion and troubles, however, I feel strongly about the foregoing and believe that if a poll was taken, all veterans will express the same views.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]
Major (Retired)

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF OF STAFF

March 16, 1970

[REDACTED]
Gulfport, Mississippi 39502

Dear [REDACTED]:

This is to thank you for your recent letter.

I appreciate your support for my efforts in behalf of our public schools. While I do not know how far my amendments will get this year, I am encouraged that we are awakening the people of the North and West to the fact that they themselves are not willing to accept those actions which are being forced on the South by the Courts and HEW. They are beginning to realize that they too want to return their schools to the original purpose of education rather than as vehicles of social change as they are now being used.

In regard to the alleged incidents at MyLai, I fully support our fighting men in their duties as prescribed by the Army regulations. However, if this alleged incident did occur, it is shocking and indefensible and not within the Army's training and our policy. The Army is looking into this and I do not know what they are going to find.

As a matter of policy and this does involve international policy, I believe that the President should appoint a commission outside the government and the military to investigate this matter. I believe that such a commission should be appointed by the President to develop all the facts without a public hearing and then report directly to the President.

In the matter of retired pay, I have always been extremely interested in making certain that our military, both active and retired, receive proper compensation. The new administration announced that it is studying the entire pay question and will make recommendations to Congress. I feel

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that it would be appropriate for the Senate Armed Services Committee to go into this entire pay question when that report is made. I do want to assure you that it has my special study and consideration.

Again my thanks for your letter, and with best wishes, I am

Your friend,

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS/er