

CARTON 1:1

PERSONAL

CORRESPONDENCE

1965-1966

LESKO, H. J.
SCHEUER, JAMES H.
MCCARTHY, EUGENE B.
BOND, JULIAN

2017/193

201 East 165th Street
Bronx, New York 10456
June 29, 1966

Representative James Scheuer
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Scheuer:

I am writing to urge you to vigorously condemn the recent aggressive steps taken by the United States in bombing oil depots and other targets in Hanoi and Haiphong. Defense Secretary McNamara rationalizes these actions by using the hackneyed argument that these attacks were necessary in order to reduce infiltration into south Vietnam. He says this in spite of the fact that infiltration has apparently increased since U.S. air raids against the north began over a year ago.

I am at a loss to understand what this new aggression means, except to conclude that President Johnson and his advisers are intent on destroying all of Vietnam and provoking a catastrophic war with China. You will recall that I strongly supported your letter calling on President Johnson not to initiate attacks against Hanoi and Haiphong. I trust that you will now protest this action as strongly as possible.

I also wish to advise you that in keeping with its unannounced policy of squelching dissent I have been called up for induction by the Selective Service System. I have been outspoken in my criticism of the Vietnam war and have participated in many demonstrations. However, for the past year I have also been enrolled in a full-time graduate program leading towards the Master's Degree. I have even won a competitive scholarship to enable me to continue my studies (on a full-time basis) in September.

Furthermore, my wife and I recently used our life savings to open a small bookstore in Harlem near C.C.N.Y. My wife works to support us and I operate the bookstore, which is not yet self-supporting. If I am inducted then we must lose our life's savings and all the time, energy and hope we have invested in our small business. I informed my Local Board (No. 62 in Atlanta, Georgia) of these circumstances and appealed the 1-A classification which was assigned to me. My appeal was denied and I have now been called up for induction on July 7th. In view of the facts outlined above I can only conclude that the Local Board is "out to get me" because of my protest activities.

I bring this matter to your attention because it is a flagrant example of the use of police-state tactics in crushing dissent. That such tactics are employed by the Selective Service System, which has life and death control over the destinies of millions of young men, is all the more horrifying. I hope that you will bring this matter to the attention of the House Armed Services Committee which is currently conducting hearings on the Selective Service System, and take what other action you can to alter this highly unjust and anti-democratic System.

Yours truly,

Robert L. Allen

J. W. FULBRIGHT, ARK., CHAIRMAN

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CLIFFORD P. CASE, N.J.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF
ARTHUR M. KUHL, CHIEF CLERK

FEB 15 1966

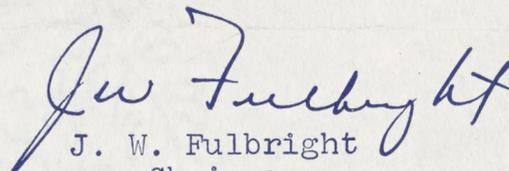
Dear Friend:

I hope you will pardon this duplicated reply to your recent communication concerning Vietnam. My secretarial staff is so small that it is simply impossible for me to send an individual letter to everyone who has written, although every letter has been read. Perhaps it may be of interest to you to know that the response has been so overwhelming -- and favorable -- that I have been forced, regretfully, to take this means to reply.

Your words of approval are very encouraging and I appreciate your taking the trouble to let me know that you support my position. You can be sure that I will continue to do everything I can to prevent the war from widening.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


J. W. Fulbright
Chairman

P.S. You may be interested to know that these thoughtful letters have come from all parts of the United States and are running about 70 to 1 in support of the position I have taken.

J. W. FULBRIGHT, ARK., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

January 31, 1966

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF
DARRELL ST. CLAIRE, CLERK

Mr. Robert L. Allen
201 East 165th Street
Bronx, New York 10546

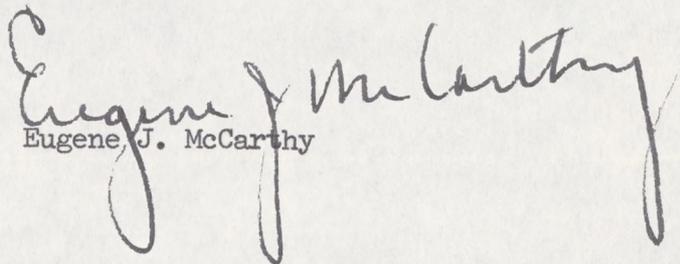
Dear Mr. Allen:

I have received your letter regarding my proposal for a study of the effects of the CIA upon the foreign relations of the United States.

I appreciate having your views and knowing of your support for such a study. Last week I introduced a resolution in the Senate to authorize a study of this kind, and I hope it will be possible to secure agreement for establishing a subcommittee for this purpose.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,


Eugene J. McCarthy

EJM:hf

201 East 165th Street
Bronx, New York 10456
January 28, 1966

Senator Eugene J. McCarthy
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator McCarthy:

I am writing to express my support for your call for a Senate investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency.

I have serious misgivings concerning certain activities of this agency. While there may be a legitimate need for intelligence activities, there can be no doubt that democracy has been dealt a mortal blow when it is revealed, as for example in the Bay of Pigs fiasco, that the CIA initiates and conducts a foreign policy different from that publicly proclaimed by the U.S. Government. Indeed, it is my understanding that the power of making and implementing foreign policy has never been mandated to the CIA. If this agency has appropriated such power, then it is the clear duty of Congress to remedy the situation and act to limit the CIA to those activities prescribed by law.

Furthermore, the CIA is responsible for disbursing large sums of the public monies, yet no accounting for these expenditures is made to the American taxpayers. I firmly believe that it is high time the principle of accountability be extended to include the semi-autonomous Central Intelligence Agency.

I think that if the above recommendations cannot be implemented within the present framework of the CIA, then perhaps the entire organization should be abolished and some more satisfactory arrangement found to replace it.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Allen

cc. Senators Fulbright, Javits, and Kennedy.

[CIRCA 1966]

Lt. Alan L. Kjelleren
AMSEL-RD-MSM
Ft. Monmouth, N.J.

Dear Bob,

Thanks for the dialogue.
How about a letter from you
guys too?

There's much I want to say
about that pat little piece of
invective — that it's an oversimplification
which blurs factual contours doesn't
assert anything either, so I'll write ^{next} week
you a fairly well considered diatribe
(which I'm pretty confident won't
change anything for you) — but may
suggest to you that this protest
you identify with is perhaps a
vehicle for other feelings.

I would look forward to seeing
you concieve and articulate goals that
would lift us out of our singular
preoccupations with one aspect of a problem,
which serves largely to tear our society
apart, as this civil rights campaign to
foreign policy does. To do so seems to
render one ineffective on both counts, as
does approaching the problem with self
righteous vindictiveness or with the

sophistication of a political dilettante.
Have I missed the mark? Well, I'll
develop the theme some.

Why the heck don't you
and Pam come down here for
the weekend? I saw Jo Turon
in N.Y. again last week, & she
suggested the only reason you guys
wouldn't take the hour ride is that
you're pressed for time. What kind
of reason could that be? We
provide good liquor, lodging and
Fran knows how to cook now -
which, as you may have guessed,
wasn't always the case!

So you and I may talk of
this and other things, if you're a mind-
or not if you believe we'd get too
heated on the topic - and the ladies
can tour the shops and garden et al.

So c'mon down Bronx,
the weather's fine -

Cheers, Alan

JAMES H. SCHEUER
21ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 224-3121

RICHARD A. BROWN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DISTRICT OFFICE:
159 EAST 165TH STREET
BRONX, NEW YORK 10452
TELEPHONE: LU 8-6790

JOHN DELANEY
CONGRESSIONAL SECRETARY

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:
SELECT EDUCATION
SPECIAL LABOR
ANTIPOVERTY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

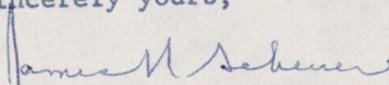
December 28, 1965

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Allen
201 East 165th Street
Bronx, New York

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Allen:

Thank you for your nice note. I can assure you that I shall continue to do all that I can to achieve a meaningful peace.

Sincerely yours,

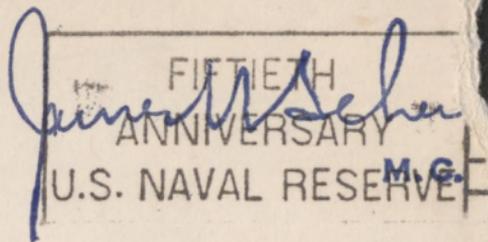


James H. Scheuer
Member of Congress

JHS:rji

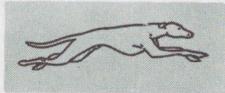
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Allen
201 East 165th Street
Bronx, New York

Greyhound



EASTERN GREYHOUND LINES

Division of The Greyhound Corporation

601-07 Eighth Avenue · New York, New York 10018

April 16th, 1965

Mr. Robert L. Allen
306 West 107 Street, #5-R
New York 25, New York

Dear Mr. Allen:

I have for acknowledgement, your letter of April 5, 1965 mentioning that in your experience in travelling by our buses you have never seen a Negro bus driver nor any other Negro employees performing other than menial tasks.

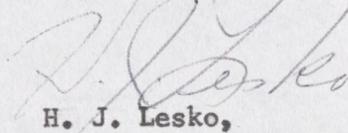
Let me state first of all that our company is a member of the Plans for Progress Program conducted under the auspices of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity. We are also an Equal Employment Employer. We employ Negroes and members of other minority groups in every department of our company as well as in supervision.

As to your statement that you would be interested in any figures concerning the total number of Negroes employed by our company, I desire to advise you that this information is confidential and we are not permitted to release this information. These statistics are furnished annually to the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity. We enjoy an excellent relationship with the New York Commission on Human Rights and if you are interested in an overall evaluation as to what our company is doing in this area, I refer you to Mr. D. Robert Ricciardi, Acting Director, Regulatory Division, Executive Department, New York State Commission for Human Rights, New York City. I am sure Mr. Ricciardi will be glad to inform you of our progress.

Should you care to call upon me, I will be glad to have a member of my staff point out to you the many Negroes that we are proud to have as members of our organization.

Very truly yours,

EASTERN GREYHOUND LINES


H. J. Lesko,
Regional Manager

HJL:efr



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 12, 1965

Dear Mr. Allen:

The White House has asked me to reply to your recent communication about our foreign relations. We appreciate your taking the time to send us your views.

Perhaps you will find the enclosed material useful. I hope you will write again if you desire additional information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James L. Greenfield".

James L. Greenfield
Assistant Secretary

Enclosures

306 West 107th Street #5R
New York 25, New York
April 5, 1965

Mr. H.J. Lesko
Eastern Greyhound Bus Lines, Inc.
625 Eighth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Lesko:

In my experience in travelling by Greyhound buses I have never seen a Negro bus driver, nor, for that matter, have I seen any Negro employee of your Company performing other than menial tasks. It seems to me that this is a strangely unbalanced situation since a good percentage of your passengers are Negroes.

I would be very interested in any figures you may be able to furnish concerning the total number of Greyhound employees, the number of Negro employees and their distribution by job categories.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very Truly Yours,

Robert L. Allen

Registered Letter