

32

INFORMATION

Friday, March 15, 1968 -- 12:55 p.m.

Mr. President:

Herewith a letter from a good, steady academic.

At some time you may wish to talk thoughtfully about the difficulties of a democracy in conducting a war of limited objectives and recall both Mr. Truman's experience and the pride we have a right to feel in retrospect at the outcome in Korea which both stabilized security in the northern Pacific area and gave the South Koreans a chance to show what they could do in building a vital, modern, democratic system.

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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

March 14, 1968

Dr. Walt W. Rostow
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Walt,

In these trying times for you, for the President, and for Secretary Rusk you must have moments when you feel low, when your faith in man's capacity to learn from history is shaken. I want you to know that there are many of us silent citizens, who admire the steadfastness, restraint, and firmness of men like you and your determination to put freedom above peace.

I watched Secretary Rusk's splendid performance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Then yesterday I watched Walter Cronkite wasting 15 minutes of news time on an "interview" with Bobby and was infuriated. It was incredible. There is little doubt that Bobby will become a new Henry Wallace.

May I suggest that President Johnson start referring to his difficulties within the Democratic Party as being almost the same which President Truman experienced. One of my graduate students wrote a Ph.D. thesis on the Truman Doctrine. I was struck by the extraordinary similarities between the accusations which various Senators (both Democrats and Republicans) directed against President Truman and the present accusations directed against President Johnson.

Recently I used this above-mentioned analogy in several debates and found it to be exceedingly effective. Such an analogy not only helps the American people to see our present problems in a proper historical perspective but should help Ho & Co. not to overestimate the significance of democratic dissent.

Please forgive me for offering this unsolicited advice but I am disturbed by the excesses of internal political partisanship. Their price could be too great for us all.

With best wishes,

Cordially yours,

Ed.

Edward J. Rozek
Professor