

AGENT ORANGE

McNeil/ Leher Report .. April 15, 1981

Debate on news from El Salvador

Woman claims over a thousand children have been
"blinded" by "defoliants and white phosphorus bombs."

ASSEMBLYMAN CHARLES J. CONRAD
ROOM 3146, STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Contact: Janet Hothersall
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE APRIL 28, 1971

"Defoliants kill, deform and disfigure human beings." This is the indoctrination the American public is subjected to via the news media day after day.

Assemblyman Charles J. Conrad, R-Sherman Oaks, a chemical warfare specialist in World War II, wants to put an end to this false propaganda espoused by self-appointed military experts like Jane Fonda, actress turned radical, and Chicago 7 member Rennie Davis.

Assemblyman Conrad, who previously has criticized the CBS documentary, 'Selling of the Pentagon' for its gross inaccuracy regarding defoliation, today challenged the media to let the American people learn the truths about the defoliation program in Vietnam by filming a demonstration in the rice fields of Northern California with Conrad as a participant.

"Time and again harrowing stories are told of women being poisoned and giving birth to deformed babies as a result of defoliant spraying in fields," stated Conrad. "Such statements were made by Miss Fonda on the 'David Frost Show' and Davis on the 'Advocates' last week."

"These falsehoods can easily be disproved and I propose the following experiment," said the chemical warfare specialist.

"The U. S. Army should be asked to spray a portion of a rice field with the television media filming the

operation. During the demonstration, I will sit or lie in this field, clad only in bathing trunks and allow the spray to fall on my body.

"A container of fresh water should be placed in the field. After the water is contaminated by the defoliant spray, I will drink it.

"Test animals, such as mice, should be placed in the field and also subjected to the spray. The mice then should be delivered to the University of California at Davis laboratories for study of their offspring. I suggest that Dr. Emil Mrak, former Chancellor of the University of California campus at Davis, and a world renowned scientist in the field of food and pesticides, be asked to supervise these tests.

"Finally, the television media should revisit the defoliated area from time to time and record what has happened to future crops. This will disprove the statement in the CBS' 'Selling of the Pentagon" program that defoliation means nothing will grow there anymore.

"The television industry has an obligation to report the truth and such a demonstration will end, once and for all, the many falsehoods that have been broadcast to American citizens about the defoliation program in recent years."

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

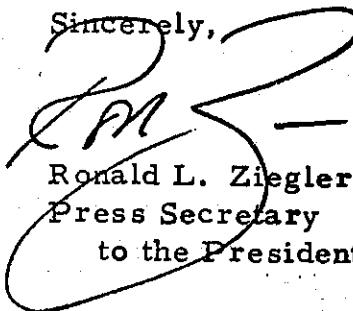
May 4, 1971

Dear Chuck:

Your press release was fascinating, and I appreciate both your pursuit of accuracy in the news media, and your letting me know of your efforts.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


Ronald L. Ziegler
Press Secretary
to the President

The Honorable Charles J. Conrad
Member of Assembly, 57th District
3146 State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

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April 29th, 1971

A. S. EPSTEIN
RONALD EPSTEIN
DOUGLAS EPSTEIN

Assemblyman Charles Conrad
State Legislature
Sacramento, Calif.

Dear Mr. Conrad,

Thank God there are a few men like yourself who will speak out!

It has become unfashionable, and the papers will rarely quote "anti-communist" material.

How they have sold the biggest lie in our generation, that THEY are the liberators, they are the anti-colonialists, etc. Since Genghis Kahan and Hitler, no person or people ever undertook a treacherous imperialism of the body and soul of so many people ---and accomplished it with the Jane Fonda et al. How have they sold this bill?

The loud minority get the press.

I have been reading the inaugural addresses of the Presidents of the United States and how often they were plagued by the free press they upheld.

Perhaps the truth is the silent majority is just too damn busy in this materialistic age in buying another antique or getting a better car.

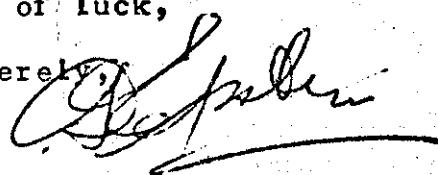
I would hope that men like yourself, with your words and courage, speaking truth, will attract militants too. This period of masochism as an excuse for doing nothing and being patriots must end.

Where would Fonda-Davis et al get space, TV interview or even the right to undress at these prices, if the great good N Vietnamese and Russians succeed?

Good wishes, I am helping an activist group called The Jewish Defense League. I happen to be convinced that those who recognize the enemies America is defending us from, must do something to counteract these addicts of self-destruction.

Best of luck,

Sincerely,



Remember our POWs!
They remember you!
WRITE TO WASHINGTON!

April 29, 1971

Assemblyman Charles Conrad
California State Legislature
Sacramento, California

Dear Sir,

Having just read page 3 of the Los Angeles Times
I want to congratulate you on your challenge to the TV
networks and Miss Fonda! Our Country needs more men like
you!

5341 Loma Linda Avenue
Hollywood, Calif. 90027

Ed. Wagner
Edmond H. Wagner

June 7, 1980

CHARLES J. CONRAD
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SUBJECT: Memo on AB 3006 (Nolan.)

I plan to travel to Sacramento, at my own expense, when AB 3006 (Nolan) is heard before the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, to appear in opposition to this measure because this seeming innocuous bill can help trigger a program that can cost the Federal government hundreds of millions (if not billions) of dollars during the next Administration.

All AB 3006 purports to do is have the California Department of Veteran Affairs assist veterans in pursuing claims against the United States from injuries supposedly caused by contact with Agent Orange, one of the defoliants used in the Vietnam war.

The organization pushing this program would seem to be concerned with American veterans and is headed by a disabled (but not from Agent Orange) American Vietnam veteran. However, the name of this organization is "Agent Orange Victims International." News items relate complaints from North Vietnamese war veterans and demands, from Hanoi, for "war reparations" from the United States for the use of Agent Orange there.

In addition, this organization is demanding the Veterans Administration study the health records of 2.4 million Vietnam veterans, who may have been exposed to Agent Orange, and that the United States assume presumptive disability for any illness sustained by these 2.4 million veterans since their days in the service. The total cost of such a program could, indeed, run into billions of dollars.

If you want a complete history of the defoliation program just call me and I'll make myself available, at a mutually agreeable time, for a full discussion.