


May 5, 1970

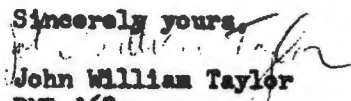
Dear Dr. Kemery,

Your statement this week impresses me as being one of the more rational and well-conceived expressions of leadership in our troubled times. In the spirit of this action, I hope the following suggestions may be considered:

First, one of the major sources of Nixon's support seems to be the so-called 'silent majority.' One fundamental difference between this faction and those opposed to the war, is, I think, one of education, judging from the people I've talked to. The academic community, uniquely, holds a powerful weapon in its familiarity with instructional techniques. My former apathetic reaction to the war was dissolved several years ago after reading what I considered an informed, objective history of the Vietnamese people, beginning long before Dien Bien Phu, by Kahin and Lewis from Cornell. The popularity of television, and of news 'specials' in particular make this an ideal medium for the widespread dissemination of an historical perspective. Newspapers, too, can reach a limited segment of the people with historical data undermining some of the fallacious assumptions used to justify American complicity. What is needed is a commitment on the part of the news media, and here is one target for unified pressure from our academic alliance.

Secondly, non-payment of taxes (unfortunately it is too late to affect the 1970 income assessment) is a technique sorely neglected on a mass scale. The threat of such action for next year may stimulate some thought among those to whom the current national division is a faraway thing. Now is the time to abolish mandatory withholding of taxes on Dartmouth payrolls. Thus, in the Spring of 1971, each individual will have the choice of supporting the government financially, or of placing an added economic burden on those who are now too secure to discuss national issues. If such a tactic could be implemented in all the allied institutions, it could serve as a prototype for effective action for those persons outside of the academic community, but yet in sympathy with our feelings.

Finally, the events of today have left me deeply impressed that, even in these violent, emotional days, American students are capable of responsible, constructive, creative effort in approaching problems of such terrible magnitude.

Sincerely yours,

John William Taylor
DMS '68