

Subject: An Ex POW And Jane Fonda

Date: Fri, 30 Apr 1999 10:13:30 EDT

From:

To:



>>Dear Ms. Walters;

>>

>>Why Jane Fonda? I PROTEST and COMPLAIN! And I had held you
>>in high regard heretofore. Why would you choose her?

>>

>>Let me lead with my personal identification so you can verify and
>>validate who I am and that my complaint is legitimate and accurate,
>>and not an anonymous "source" fabricated by some journalist or
>>other activist with an agenda or some hidden partisan political
>>connection:

>>

>>James Edwin Ray, [REDACTED] Colonel, U.S Air Force (Retired)
>>Vietnam Veteran; F-105D Pilot; POW, May 1966 - Feb 1973

>> [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Please call to confirm.]

>>

>>While I make no presumption to speak for anyone but myself, I firmly
>>believe, from my continuing interaction with retired and active duty
>>servicemen and women, that approximately 85% toward 100% of
>>all military veterans of the Vietnam conflict, and approximately the
>>same percentage of those currently serving, who know the full
>>story of Jane Fonda's visit to Hanoi, would generally concur with
>>the sentiments expressed below. If anyone can give credible
>>evidence to the contrary, i.e., without political pressure upon the
>>careers of current servicemen and women to refute this, I would
>>consider revising my estimate.

>>

>>Why Jane Fonda? ... a woman who fulfilled the dictionary definition,
>>as well as centuries of legal precedent, of TREASON, by giving aid
>>and comfort to the enemy, during active hostilities, while I and
>>several hundred other American and Allied POW's were being
>>abused just a few blocks away in the "Hanoi Hilton," the infamous
>>Hoa Lo Prison!

>>

>>Why Jane Fonda? ... when we were honorably repatriated in 1973,

>>and we duly reported the torture, the exploitation, their use of us
>>as hostages at known targets, and other violations of international
>>law, that same Jane Fonda publicly called us "liars!" I challenged
>>her to a public debate, or even a private visit, to see the rope burn
>>scars (from the torture we called "the rope trick"), still visible on
>>my arms after more than six years of captivity. Paul Harvey took
>>note of my challenge, but few others in the media would; I was
>>predictably ignored by the Fonda - Hayden followers.

>>
>>But we POW's and our mistreatment in that gulag were not the only,
>>nor the most significant reason I'm writing IN PROTEST. Many
>>others earned as much or greater relevance than we. The dedicated
>>service and sacrifices of millions of American citizens who loyally
>>served, and put their lives on the line, in Southeast Asia, at the
>>request of their Congress and their President, earned that same
>>respect ... and in even greater measure, those who lost their
>>lives, and those who lost their loved ones. All of them Ms. Fonda
>>also BETRAYED! But they are not the major issue here, either.

>>
>>That the war allegedly became "an unpopular one" (according to a
>>very vocal minority in the media, in Hollywood, and in academia,
>>where many cowardly draft dodgers found refuge, is not the issue
>>(though the radical left would try to make it so). Despite all the
>>hired activists, the manipulated draft-eligibles, the media
>>cheerleaders, and the provocative demonstrations, the silent majority
>>overcame that theory when they elected, and re-elected (by a landslide)
>>President Nixon, and the Representatives and Senators who prevailed in
>>attempting to prosecute the war to a just and honorable end. Falsely
>>alleged of unfairly exaggerated popularity polls are not the issue!

>>
>>The American Constitution and the rule of law, and citizens duties
>>and responsibilities thereto, are the key issues at stake! The issue
>>is that a de facto TRAITOR, for complex political reasons, was never
>>held accountable, de jure, for her dictionary defined, legislatively
>>defined, and historically precedented acts of TREASON. Civilizations
>>ignore such actions at great peril to their continuance and survival.

>>
>>Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon led our involvement in
>>Vietnam. The US Congress, expressing the will of the American
>>people, using the Constitutionally mandated due process of dis-
>>cussion, deliberation, debate, and legislation established the
>>legitimacy of our involvement, and the draft, and funding to support
>>it.

No; "right or wrong (to be in Vietnam)," "popular or unpopular,"
>>"freedom of speech," "right to dissent," "principled opposition," etc.,

are not the issues. That it was the law of the land, enacted by due
>>process, and that Ms. Fonda willfully disobeyed the law, the will of
>>the Congress, and the policy and leadership of the Commander-in-
>>Chief, and that her actions did great harm to American citizens
>>duly engaging an enemy in time of war, while giving aid and comfort
>>to that same enemy, is the issue: a prima facie case that she

>>committed TREASON.

>>
>>Why do you want to honor, or even recognize, Jane Fonda, a de
>>facto TRAITOR? Why do media seem so uninterested in offering a
>>fair opportunity to give honorable, loyal, brave, patriotic citizens a
>>fair voice to make our case (as above) before the court of public
>>opinion? Does her talent as an actress absolve her betrayal?
>>Does her husband's status as a media mogul override principle?

>>(Weren't both Ms. and Mr. Fonda-Turner sufficiently exposed and
>>discredited by the Time-CNN "Tailwind" story for such bias against
>>Vietnam military veterans that they also betrayed legitimate standards
>>of journalism?)

>>

>>Why would you want to give her/them cover or rehabilitation (much
>>less Honor) when they have not sincerely apologized for their obvious
>>mistakes? Is it money? Is it power? Is it celebrity? Is it ratings?

>

>>Do any or all of these override principle, character, integrity ... the
>>things we should be teaching our young people?

>>

>>I most respectfully urge you to reconsider any thought of honoring or
>>even recognizing Jane Fonda. If you have made irrevocable commit-
>>ments to do so, I urge you to allow others, who share the views and
>>principles expressed above, equal time in an equivalent forum to
>>inform the American people who and what Jane Fonda really is!

>>

>>Jim Ray

>>College Station, Texas