

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE  
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

16 November 1949

Dear Henry,

Thank you very much for sending me the material and comments in your letter of 4 November. I am sorry that my absence in Washington on duty and the pressure of other work has delayed my reply.

Admiral Brown, Captain Taylor and I have given your letter and enclosure very careful consideration, and we have come to the conclusions first, that Ruark in his typical wisecracking way has been actually taking a crack at the administration rather than at the Navy itself, and secondly, that if he were taking a crack at the Navy itself there is not much that can be done in the way of direct action which could combat an article of this nature. Therefore, let's forget about Mr. Ruark and discuss some of the broader issues.

I believe that in some of the recent Washington testimony and in the great majority of the newspapers the fundamental issues involved in the unification controversy have been completely ignored or obscured. Only two current writers to my knowledge seem to have grasped the fundamentals of this situation. They are Hanson Baldwin and David Lawrence. I commend to your attention the back copies of the New York Times which contain Hanson Baldwin's discussions, and I suggest that you get a copy of U.S. News and World Report of 4 November and read David Lawrence's splendid feature article on the main issues involved in the controversy.

The Navy cause will suffer every time we get lost in detail. We must understand and keep to the main issues. The public eventually will realize the correctness of the Navy's position. There is no doubt as to that. The difficulty is, will that recognition come too late.

I suggest that you and your friends who are interested in the security of the country keep searching for the fundamentals and pound them home in your own communities. There are issues, there are facts, and there are opinions, and it is very necessary that the issues be defined, the facts discussed, and the opinions presented in an objective manner. A fact and an opinion should not be confused. When properly presented the American people have the ability to discern the truth and they will do it.

Good luck to you, and thank you very much for your letter.

Always sincerely,

Mr. Henry Foss  
225 East F Street  
Tacoma, Washington

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To Captain Taylor for  
his ack. + reading