

## Congress of the United States

### House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

August 9, 1967

Mr. Eliot F. Porter  
Route 4, Box 33  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Eliot:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 3rd. I appreciate its provocative message.

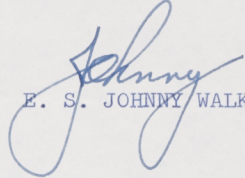
However, I think there has been too much a propensity to lay the blame at the feet of Congress. I would be the first to admit that in Congresses prior to the 89th Congress, the acknowledgment of the problem and response to possible solutions was slow. However, I think that during the past three years Congress has faced its responsibilities and has sought and funded programs aimed at relieving racial strife and poverty. I enclose a copy of Appropriation Committee Chairman Mahon's speech on the House Floor as evidence of recent action taken by Congress.

As to your remarks about Vietnam, I agree that I would prefer to see the money being spent on the war spent domestically if it were not for the commitment we have in Southeast Asia. But the point is, Eliot, that we do have this commitment and it is now so great that we would be totally discredited throughout the free world if we did not see this commitment through to an honorable and just peace which will guarantee the South Vietnamese their right to self-determination. Hence, what we have -- and I don't mean to be trite -- is a "guns or butter" situation. It is unfortunate that one has to be sacrificed, but with the budget deficit estimated at 29 billion dollars for fiscal year 1968, it is a fact of life.

While I agree further that a clarification and re-appraisal is in order, I must admit that so long as there is one United States serviceman in Vietnam, I intend to vote for any measure that provides for his safety and well being.

Again, thank you for your letter and I hope you will feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



E. S. JOHNNY WALKER, M. C.

ESJW:bjm

Enclosure