

WHITE TRUCK SALES COMPANY
SCHWABE COLL

Reser

May 22, 1945
Tulsa, Oklahoma

File
Hon. George B. Schwabe
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Schwabe,

This is to express appreciation for your candid letter on the subject of H.R.2346 which was in answer to my letter of May 15.

I should be remiss in the premises, however, if I did not ask your careful consideration of the fact that distinctions do exist in this bill as compared to the G.I. Bill of Rights in the scope of conferred benefits.

We who have sons and daughters in all the branches of service deplore the fact that this measure should be denominated as controversial. With all due respect to the V.F.W. and American Legion there is unfortunately some little evidence of self-love and some quite nebulous thinking in their resolutions. I should venture the information that they would be hard put to it to produce proportionately the individual records of personal war risk sustained by the average Merchant Mariner.

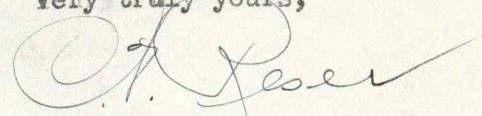
In the first two years of the war when these kids and the oldsters of the Merchant Marine were carrying the ball, and that is incontrovertible, their record was outstanding and our need of them critical and indispensable. Bear in mind that they were volunteers and were in the forefront at every hell's crossing.

We come to bury Caesar not to praise him in this case and all we ask is impartial justice. If the bill must be modified, do so, but make the punishment fit the crime. God knows we would not detract in one infinitesimal degree from any veteran. There is glory enough for all and apparently there is money enough to accomplish the essential minimums we ask.

The spirit of these remarks is not argumentative but the ghosts of the youthful maritime dead throughout the seven seas should not be a subject for technicalities as I am sure your good judgment will approve.

Thanking you again for your kind consideration of this pertinent subject,
I am

Very truly yours,


C. V. Reser

CVR:kr
2502 South Woodward

May 17, 1945

Mr. C. V. Reser
c/o White Truck Sales Company
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of recent date calling to my attention the pending House Resolution 2346, calculated to put the Merchant Marine boys on substantially the same basis as the men in the armed forces will enjoy under the G. I. Bill of Rights.

This is a very controversial subject and I assure you that I have discussed the matter with those who favor and those who disapprove of the pending measure. Frankly, I think there are good arguments for and against its passage in its present form. I doubt very seriously if it will be passed in its present form. I am inclined to think it should be amended and that these 2 classes of people should not be on an identical basis. I am in receipt of a strong resolution of the Veterans of Foreign Wars opposing the passage of this bill and stating in the resolution their reasons for such opposition. I understand the American Legion likewise has taken a stand against this bill.

I assure you that this measure will receive my continued serious consideration and I trust that any final decision and vote on the measure will meet with your approval.

Yours very truly,

George B. Schwabe, M. C.

GBS:CMG

WHITE TRUCK SALES COMPANY

May 1, 1945

Hon. George B. Schwabe
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Schwabe,

I would like to call to your favorable attention House Resolution 2346 now in committee (Merchant Marine and Fisheries), pertaining to aid and readjustment in civilian life of persons who rendered war service in the United States Merchant Marine during World War II, and to provide aid for the families of deceased war-service seamen.

In brief justification of this request for your support of the above impending Bill, I should like to present certain principal reasons that are substantiated by the evident facts.

1 One of these has been the almost general assignment to - and service in - foreign waters by the men of the Merchant Marine, a very considerable part of which has been denoted as combat areas. Up to a comparatively late stage of the more than three years of war, the casualties of the Merchant Marine service were ten times those of either the Army or the Navy as to ratio of men lost in relation to the number involved.

2 Hospitallization, disability, death or other compensatory benefits to merchant seamen, cadet-midshipmen, officers, or to their families respectively, are non-existent or grossly inadequate.

3 All pay received by Merchant Mariners is subject to civilian income tax rates. Free clothing or subsistence is not provided nor is there perceptible reimbursement for time and money involuntarily expended during lapses in active duty assignments.

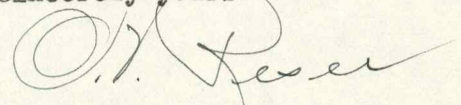
4 The potential importance of resolving educational interruptions, post war re-employment and rehabilitation contingencies as they will affect the individuals of the Maritime Service, are currently without appraisal or plan of mitigation except as provided for in the proposed subject act.

5 It is commonly reported that the influence of both Army and Navy authorities is perhaps indifferent, if not unfavorable, to beneficial legislation in the interest of Maritime Service personnel. For those of us who respectively have members of our family in all branches of the armed services (we have five stars in our window), this would be discrimination manifestly unfair and a gratuitous affront to our sense of justice. It is to be hoped that such inequity, if it latently exists, shall not prevail as an obstruction to the unprejudiced and impartial consideration of our law-makers to whose judgment we must entrust this vital matter.

6 The direct and violent hazards of war sustained by our Merchant Marine sons in line of duty should long since have been the object of our proper and impelling concern.

Assuring you of the extreme solicitude of myself and thousands of others in this important legislation, I am, with best wishes and respects,

Sincerely yours



C. V. Reser

CVR:kr