

SCHWALL

May 17, 1945

Mr. C. I. Pontius, President
The University of Tulsa
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Ci:

I have your letter of the 10th instant, requesting me to support the Seamen's Bill of Rights, HR 2346, when it comes before the House for consideration.

You suggest that it seems only fair that the boys in the Maritime Service receive the same privileges and opportunities that are granted the members of the armed forces under the G. I. Bill of Rights. Naturally, all of the boys in the Merchant Marine Service want all of the rights granted the boys in the different branches of the armed services.

The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, as I understand their attitude, are opposed to putting the Maritime boys on a par with the boys in the armed services, and they have some very good arguments in support of their position.

The mothers of the Merchant Marine have conducted a very diligent campaign for the passage of HR 2346, but thus far I have declined to commit myself on this subject. It is my present opinion that the bill likely will not pass in its present form. It may be that these boys should have some additional consideration, but it is hard to believe that they are entitled to as much consideration as the boys who actually face the enemy and receive less pay in combat service than the boys who do not engage in combat service and who do not risk their lives to the extent that the boys in the armed services do. It is pointed out in a resolution adopted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in their post at Tulsa, May 3, 1945, that the "industrial worker and members of the Merchant Marine receive compensation calculated to cover the risk and in addition thereto retain the benefit of civilian privileges denied members of the armed forces." They further state in their resolution that "a member of the Merchant Marine can change jobs at his own pleasure, change ships, take leaves of absence, select his own style of dress and enjoy all the privileges of any civilian worker engaged in essential work." The same resolution contains the further statements:

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"The base rate of pay for ordinary Merchant Seamen is \$85.00 per month while in a United States port plus \$100.00 and \$5.00 per day when in hostile waters, plus overtime pay for all time worked over eight hours per day, plus a bonus of \$125.00 for each member of the crew every time the ship is damaged or a member of the crew is injured by enemy action, and;

"the base pay of apprentice Seamen of the United States Navy is \$50.00 per month plus \$10.00 for war zone duty, wherever he may be sent, with 24 hours a day duty and no overtime and no bonuses."

I merely set out a few of the more pertinent arguments offered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars to let you know that this is a serious matter and deserves the most careful study. One cannot please all groups at any time. I have friends in both camps and I shall be careful to do what I think is fair and just in the premises, and I hope that my decision and vote on this measure will ultimately meet with your approval.

I am glad to have heard from you and trust that you will feel free to write me at any time on any subject that you think should be brought to my attention.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Your friend,

George B. Schwabe, M. C.

GBS:CMG

THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
C. I. PONTIUS

May 10, 1945

Honorable George B. Schwabe
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

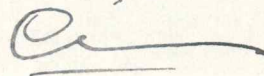
Dear George:

I hope you will support the Seamen's
Bill of Rights, H. R. 2346, when it comes before
the House.

We have many boys in the Maritime
Service, and it seems to me only fair that they
should enjoy the same privileges and opportunities
that are given the members of the Armed Forces in
the G. I. Bill of Rights.

Kindest regards and all best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



CIP-jd