

SCHWABE CCLH

March 11, 1946.

Mr. Frank B. Frank  
Ensign, USMS  
1733 So. Cheyenne  
Tulsa, 5, Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Frank:

I have your letter of March 3rd relative to the extension of the G.I. Bill of Rights to include Merchant seamen. I think you refer to H. R. 2346 which was referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. This is a bill introduced by Representative Peterson of Florida. No hearings have been held by the Full Committee and the bill is now being studied by a Sub-committee. Just how soon any definite action or report will be announced I cannot state at this time.

I note with more than passing interest your comments on the proposed extension of the G. I. Bill of Rights to include Merchant seamen. I had four sons in the service and I have had a fair opportunity to know the serviceman's attitude toward the Merchant seamen. I know that most of the Navy men whom I have contacted think about as you do. On the other hand, I have had many parents of these boys write me and many of the boys themselves have written me to insist upon the same rights that the G. I.'s have. I have never been convinced that they were entitled to the same benefits and I doubt if I can be so convinced. However, I am going to give this matter thorough consideration if it is presented to us for decision in the House and I do not know just what my reactions to the arguments pro and con may be. My present inclination is not to vote in favor of such a measure.

With sincere appreciation for your views and ideas on the subject I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M. C.

GBS:rbh

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1733 So. Cheyenne  
Tulsa 5, Oklahoma

March 3rd 1946  
Trinidad

Honorable George Swabe  
House Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have been advised that legislation is now being considered in regard to extending the "GI BILL of RIGHTS" to include Merchant seamen.

Having served in the Merchant Marines for the last two years I feel well qualified to make a few remarks in opposition to this extension.

There are a few men that would be deserving of such education benefits; but I would rather see these deprived than to foster a mass movement of drunkards, trouble makers, thieves, and "men of anit-American ideals" into our college student bodies.

I might point out that during the critical time of the war the minimum pay, which included various bonuses, amounted to approximately \$175 a month. Surely any of the lowest paid seamen that had served two years continuous at sea would be able to save enough out of the \$4,200 in pay to put him through school if he really wanted to attend.

Those men that were physically fit have always had the opportunity of joining the Navy which would in turn offer them the "GI BILL of RIGHTS" and other service benefits upon honorable discharge. I know the NMU-CIO union showered disrespect upon the Navy men in the gun crews in order to help talk the Merchant seaman out of joining the Navy as it would break up the unions strength and income.

While a few of the men were sincere in their efforts of patriotism, many persecuted the Navy men through a campaign of sneering and ridicule remarks.

In short, as I see it, the American Merchant seaman makes to much money in return for the amount of work done. And since he preferred to remain a civilian why should he be treated otherwise, and at the expense of Mr. Taxpayer?

Yours truly,

*Frank B. Frank*  
Frank B. Frank  
Ensign, USMS

Mch. 11, 1946.

This Bill H. R. 2346 is before the Committee  
on Merchant Marines.

Hearings have been held by the Full Committee  
and it is now being studied by Sub Committee , Mr.  
Peterson of Florida.

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