

Box FFF, Indio, California
February 7, 1966

Dear Mr. Karson

Thank you for your complimentary remarks on the TV address I made just as I left the Presidency. I am glad to know that your organization is devoting time and energy to studying the ramifications of what I then called the "military-industrial complex."

The influence of tremendous munitions expenditures is felt in every phase of our national life -- millions today owe their prosperity, indeed their livelihood to this kind of production. Communities, and manufacturers, compete for new munitions facilities or contracts; to obtain such favorable situations political influence is sought and often given. Manifestly all of us should be alert to the possibility that munitions production could become so important that whole communities will look upon it as a way of life; we may forget that these expenditures are merely for the purpose of defending ourselves and what we now have.

Our struggle against world Communism involves military, economic and spiritual factors. Each is equally important and it is up to us to see that we maintain the necessary strength in each and the proper balance among the three.

Sincerely,



Mr. Stanley G. Karson, Chairman
Special Committee on Military-Industrial Complex
American Veterans Committee
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