

June 13, 1967

General Dwight D. Eisenhower
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir:

Fifteen years ago I prepared a doctoral thesis on the foreign policy speeches of Senator Arthur A. Vandenberg. A recent re-reading of that work prompts this letter to you.


In 1932 Senator Vandenberg served on the War Policies Commission, and the Secretary of that Commission was one D. D. Eisenhower (with the rank of major, I believe). The odds against there having been two D. D. Eisenhowers in Washington at that time must be staggering.

If, as I surmise, you were indeed the Secretary of the Commission, I should like to ask you two questions. The first is whether you recall Vandenberg's role on the Commission as being in any way noteworthy, perhaps intensifying his isolationist sentiment of the 30's?

The second question may be impertinent, but it is worth asking nevertheless. I wonder if there was any connection in your mind between your experience with the Commission's investigation of war profits and the caution you expressed in your farewell address as President regarding potential military-industrial relationships inimical to the nation's liberty?

Perhaps I should explain that I ask these questions not for any particular purpose but merely because of my interest in Senator Vandenberg and yourself.

Respectfully yours,



Theodore R. Kennedy
Professor