

BE
June 21, 1967

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

You are quite correct in your assumption that I served on the secretariat on the War Policies Commission during the early 1930's. While I met Senator Vandenberg at that time, indeed a few years later we became friends, he showed very little interest in the work of the commission. I think he rarely attended its formal meetings. Concerning your question about any connection between that experience and the caution I expressed in my final Presidential address, I assure you I find none whatsoever.

I became convinced in those early studies that industry wanted anything but war; in other words the hope of profits by industry was in no way a cause of war.

My 1961 caution in this matter was not inspired by any belief that any sector in the United States now wanted war. Rather I wanted to point out that so many sectors of our nation -- defense forces, industry and political officials -- were all influenced toward greater and greater armament production in time of peace. This identity of interest could, obviously, occasion a very frightening trend in this country. Indeed, this may be happening now.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mr. Theodore R. Kennedy
Professor of American Thought and Language
Michigan State University
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