

# Mail on Calley, Especially From South, Takes on Emotional Tone

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 WASHINGTON, April 2—

One Californian protested with poetry in a letter: "A single leaf does not turn yellow without the silent knowledge of the whole tree."

A veteran in Kansas mailed his honorable discharge certificate, which he said was now worthless, to Senator Robert J. Dole, the Republican National Chairman.

And several Americans, joining in the unusual expressions of outrage at the court-martial conviction of Army First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr., have written urging the intervention of Representative L. Mendel Rivers, the South Carolina Democrat who died in December.

It is all part of the mail and telegram reaction to the finding by a six-officer panel at Fort Benning, Ga., that Lieutenant Calley murdered at least 22 South Vietnamese civilians at My Lai 4 on March 16, 1968. By late today, four days after the verdict was reached, it was clear from a check with staff members in the office of three dozen members of Congress that the mail protest was unusual in several respects.

**Heavy in Deep South**  
 It was heavy in the Deep South, moderate or light elsewhere. Virtually all of the letters and telegrams to the Capitol took the side of the 27-year-old lieutenant. And those who were indignant might just as easily have been doves as hawks.

light volume of Calley mail—no more than from constituents protesting a plan to end deferments of divinity students. But Miami is New South, and in the Old South the outpouring of mail was large. Representative F. Edward Hebert, Democrat of Louisiana and successor to the late Mr. Rivers as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, had received 2,000 letters and telegrams by noon today, many of them from Georgia.

House members from Arkansas and Mississippi were being inundated with mail. An aide to one Southern Senator said the protest appeared to be larger than that touched off by the capture of the Navy intelligence ship Pueblo by North Korea in 1968.

**4 Out of 600**  
 Of some 600 pieces of mail to Senator David H. Gambrell, Democrat of Georgia, only four supported the court-martial verdict. The rest reflected the sentiment that one of Mr. Gambrell's constituents wrote on a postcard: "Fort Benning, Shame, Shame, Shame."

Many protesters, according to the Congressional aides, were parents who said they would advise their sons to evade the draft rather than face the treatment Lieutenant Calley received for "doing his duty." Others came from veterans of other wars, noting, as did mail to Senator Harry F. Byrd Jr. of Virginia, "I've killed civilians in Korea" or "I machine-gunned a group in World War I."

Members of Congress from areas outside the South were receiving a heavy volume of mail, but nothing out of the ordinary for a significant issue. "We got as many letters today on the F.B.I.," said an aide to Senator George S. McGovern, the South Dakota Democrat who is an announced Presidential candidate. "Everyone's office was just cooling off after the SST [supersonic transport] mail," said Walter Evans, legislative aide to Senator Mark O. Hatfield, Republican of Oregon. "This is more like the SST reaction."

Representative Patsy Mink, Democrat of Hawaii, has heard from only one constituent so far, and a spokesman for Representative Ahner J. Mikva, Democrat of Illinois, said that Mr. Mikva had received only a few letters, "nothing close to the reaction" last spring when American troops took part in the incursion into Cambodia. That view was mirrored in the attitude at the office of Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine, where an official said his 150 complainants about the Calley verdict "don't begin to compare with the volume after Cambodia."

"We were flooded with mail on that," the official said. In the office of Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, the Calley mail was comparable in volume to the outpouring of support for the Senator's bill to create a red-woods national park, and in the office of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, it was said to be the equivalent of mail protesting the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union. No one disputed, however, the strong feelings of those

who have set some 50,000 telegrams to the White House, 38,000 to members of Congress and another 600 to the Pentagon. At the Department of Defense, a growing number of individuals were being recorded today, for the first time, in support of the court verdict. But most were like the telegram to Senator Alan Cranston, Democrat of California, that declared, "Soldiers don't create wars, politicians do—free Calley and sentence politicians." Or the complaint to Senator Howard H. Baker Jr., Republican of Tennessee: "What would the VC [Vietcong] have done had they marched through Washington, D.C., or Johnson City, Tenn., to our women and children?"

**Democratic appeal instead of a bipartisan one.**  
 The conviction of Lieutenant Calley and a highly charged 3-day debate on extension of the draft have disclosed a deep desire in the House for an end to the war. The new letter declares that Congress and the President are in agreement on the goal of United States policy in Vietnam, and praises Mr. Nixon for substantially reducing the number of American troops there. But, the five Republicans say, Congress also shares with the President the responsibility for carrying out that policy. "Mourning citizen concern about our role in the tragic Indochina war has dramatically swelled the ranks of those Americans favoring an early withdrawal of U.S. military forces," says the letter. "No longer can there be any doubt that an overwhelming majority want this war to end as soon as possible. Congress has the unique responsibility to channel that feeling into responsible legislative action to end the war."

**White House Mail**  
 SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., April 2 (UPI)—The Western White House said today that telegrams continued to pour in at a rate of 100 to 1 favoring clemency for Lieutenant Calley. The deputy press secretary, Gerald L. Warren, said that a number of wires had been received applauding President Nixon's action ordering the officer removed from the stockade and given relative freedom while his court-martial conviction was under review.

**GOP Aftwar Letter**  
 WASHINGTON, April 2 (AP)—Fast-spreading sentiment in Congress for ending the Vietnam war received new impetus today as five House Republicans joined the effort to pull out all American troops by the end of the year. In a letter to their House colleagues, they said the United States had fulfilled its commitment to South Vietnam and should leave. It was signed by Representatives R. Lawrence Coughlin, Penna.; Marvin L. Esch, Mich.; Gan; Gilbert Gude, Maryland; F. Bradford Morse, Massachusetts, and Charles A. Mosher, Ohio. The letter is an indication of a dramatic shift taking place in the House on the war issue. Just last Monday, efforts to get Republicans to sign a similar letter walled and it went out as

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