

December 23rd, 1950
212 W. Seminary Ave.
Wheaton, Illinois

The Honorable Chauncey W. Reed
Representative from Illinois
House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Reed:

I invite your attention to my letter of August 10th wherein I posed a variety of questions and your reply of August 22nd with enclosures. I have read most of these documents which seem to be largely pleasant generalities. Critical analysis of the wording fails to reveal that the U.S.S.R. has broken many of its agreements. Most of these are so phrased with qualifications as to be meaningless.

One outstanding exception to the above is Annex I of the Potsdam Agreement (see pages 13, 14, 16). The clarity with which the terms for control of Hungary are set forth is remarkable. Annex I is in form of an unsigned letter written in the third person up to the final paragraph, where it switches to the first person. It would be of considerable interest to me to learn who was the writer of this letter.

In regard to the Berlin debacle and the failure to provide a suitable access corridor; the consensus of opinion conveniently places the blame upon John G. Winant who is now dead. Nowhere in the literature on Potsdam, Yalta or Yalta II could I find information upon; by whom, when, how or on what considerations the various occupation zones of Germany were decided. Please send to me a copy of the works of the committee composed of Eden, Winant and Goussier which is mentioned in Yalta Agreement under III. Disarmament of Germany. Also please send me a copy of the actions of the European Advisory Commission which met in London, September thru November 1944. Winant, Strang and Goussier were on this commission.

The copy of "Korea" July 6th, 1950 by John L. Houk and Ellen Clodfelter is quite interesting. These two scholars are to be commended for the clarity of exposition on an obtuse subject. The actual subject matter is a rather sad series of expediency and indecision.

On July 31st, 1950 the Senate Armed Services Investigating Subcommittee issued a report on what happened to our money. This is most interesting for what it does not say. I note that over the four year period up to date of issue we spent 19.86 billion dollars (41% of total) on pay, food and clothing. Please send to me a breakdown of this figure into the three categories. Also break down the pay into civilian and military personnel. I also wish to learn the number of personnel in these two categories for each year. In the case of military personnel please give a breakdown into enlisted and officer grade in both dollars and number. The very magnitude of the figure involved seems to indicate a suspicion of mismanagement. If the costs are real, how can we afford still larger armies?

The above seems to be adequate comment on how we got to where we are. Of more importance is where do we go from here. I invite your attention to the Von Moltke diagram on the next sheet. Von Moltke was one of the generals who forged the German Empire about 1870. The diagram is his method of rating men. Peculiarly enough it well applies to all walks of life. Von Moltke knew that the man in the upper right corner had the makings of disaster and acted accordingly.

After reading certain of the documents which you sent to me and noting recent actions of our President, I am convinced that he well fits into the upper right hand square of the Von Moltke diagram. I cannot recommend his removal because then we would have an elderly gentleman who probably fits into the lower right hand corner of the diagram. What can be done is for Congress to take back all the powers it has delegated to Mr. Truman and his predecessor. Any man who has sufficient authority to embroil the United States in a shooting war without having to ask the consent of Congress is dangerous to our way of life. That such a situation could occur is a commentary on the delinquency of our elected officials. Another indication of this delinquency is the poor quality of men brought forward for our highest elective offices by our professional politicians. The very small vote cast in the 1948 election is an indication of popular indifference or revulsion.

As Representative from Illinois, I expect you to actively engage in reducing Mr. Truman's power to a minimum. Also I expect you to examine carefully all phases of our foreign affairs and act upon them for our greatest direct national interest. By this I mean: Build up America; Get out of Korea and stay off the Asiatic mainland; Get out of Europe and stay out of European entanglements; No more loans or gifts to foreign governments; Cut government expenses; Build a strong air force and navy but not a large and useless standing army; Increase taxes and BALANCE THE BUDGET. The last is probably of first importance. Continuation down the road we have been travelling for 20 years will surely bring ruinous inflation, restrictions, black markets and collapse. When this occurs our free enterprise way of life is just as dead as if we surrender to Joe Stalin now. The above conclusions have not been hastily arrived at. I will form an opinion of your adequacy as a Representative upon how you carry out the above advice or depart therefrom.

The new year will be a difficult one. However with common sense and aggressive action at home we can make it a profitable one. America is still the greatest nation on earth and I intend to have it remain so.

Yours very truly,

Grete Reber

Von Moltke Diagram

	BRIGHT	DULL
ACTIVE	Make Line Officer	Throw Out
LAZY	Make Staff Officer	Let Find Own Place