

May 8, 1957

Mr. George Huddleston, M. C.
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear George:

As you have no doubt noted, the Nickerson court-martial proceeding has been continued until 25 June 1957. While this would give us sufficient time to examine the highly sensitive material involved, provided it is made available to us at an early date, it will be interesting to watch the Defense Department's timing in the additional clearances that we have requested and the availability of this material to us.

It has occurred to Mr. Jenkins, Colonel Zimmer and Lt. Cole that now would be a very fine time to take any action, regardless of how casual or subtle the action, suggestions or comments might be, to the effect that the interest of the country would be infinitely better served if the Army would proceed to give Colonel Nickerson non-judicial punishment rather than run the risk of exposing the highly sensitive material that a trial by court-martial might likely involve.

We pass this suggestion along to you because of your genuine interest in this case and hope that you can get in a good lick or two for Colonel Nickerson, the Army and the country as a whole.

Thanking you and with kindest personal regards, I am

Always sincerely yours,

Robert K. Bell

RKB:mfl

GEORGE HUDDLESTON, JR., M. C.

NINTH DISTRICT
ALABAMA

JEFFERSON COUNTY

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

TOM KING
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

HARRY COOK
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Room 243

May 10, 1957

Honorable Robert K. Bell
Bell, Moring & Richardson
Attorneys at Law
610-14 Terry-Hutchens Building
Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Buster:

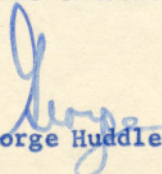
Thank you very much for your letter dated May 8, 1957, concerning the Nickerson court-martial proceeding. It was good to hear from you.

I am, in accordance with your suggestion, going to make a discreet request to both Secretary Brucker and General Maxwell Taylor that full consideration be given to the matter about which you wrote. I want to be as helpful as possible, as I am sure you know; however, it would be deeply appreciated if you will keep this action that I am taking completely confidential. You realize well that any steps that I may take in this regard must of necessity be only between us and the officials of the Department of the Army.

Your suggestion is indeed meritorious, and I am glad to do what I can.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I remain

Yours sincerely,


George Huddleston, Jr., M. C.

GHjr:pc