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Arcadia, MI 49613

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C-Span
400 N. Capital St., NW
Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

Brian et al:

I could not believe my ears! Robert McNamara saying that the reason we did not end the war sooner was because we did not understand the facts surrounding the history of Vietnam!!

I asked myself the question: How could I, a Midwest schoolmarm, mother of four get the information and he couldn't? I began to think about this. I had just begun to go through my files and gather up all of my letters to editors, politicians and public figures for the last 50 years. Sure enough, there were several missives dealing with the Viet Nam War. I looked through them for the information that Mr. McNamara said he was not privy to, and I found it! I am enclosing some of them.

Now that I think about it, perhaps Mr. McNamara never went to a teach-in on Vietnam, never listened to responsible members of the U.S. Senate or House; and, of course, never listened to the war protestors.

My heart goes out to the woman on C-Span whose brother was lost to Mr. McNamara's folly. I, too, remember the sleepless days and nights wondering if I would ever see my oldest son again.

I am not even mad -- just so sad that this ever had to be. Perhaps the only positive point in this is that we shall be more wary in the future. We have many sources of information now which we must cull out and make our own decisions on. We did not do too well on Desert Storm, Panama, Granada, Guatemala, Nicaragua, or El Salvador.

We went obediently along with these dirty little wars, but each time we go into the killing fields, we get a little more savvy as to how our national wealth is being wasted. We must let our representatives know what we have learned. To protest unsound policies is our duty.

With e-mail, print, fax and television, we can get all of the information we need to make our own informed decisions. It's time-consuming, but vigilance is the price we pay for living in our democracy.

I shall expect Mr. McNamara's royalties to go to a fund which will, in some token way, recompense U.S. citizens and the Vietnamese. Also, it would be responsible if my country ceased to be the world's number one arms merchant so that going to war would not be so easy.

