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Santa Fe, NM 87501
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Sept 17, 1992

Brian Lamb
Journalists Roundtable
400 W. Capitol St #650
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

In the last week
on your show + other
call-in shows many
people in talking about

2.

Vietnam keep saying

"the poor went to Vietnam
+ the rich pulled strings."

While there is some truth
to that it is by no
means 100% accurate -

~~I~~ I lived in Boston during

Vietnam. I remember a
friend of mine - a black
acoustic jazz bass player -

I remember him coming
into the club one day
all excited because he had

3.

just gotten out of the draft. This mild-mannered gentle soul who rarely if ever took drugs had dressed up that day like a ragamuffin - took several uppers - put a lot of junk in a bag over his shoulder + announced he wanted to "join the Army." They rejected him. He was not rich. Many men pretended they were homosexual in order to be rejected.

2/...

many went to doctors
& asked them to say they
had a back problem.

many musicians got a job
in the army band.

many went to U-mass,
which at that time
was very inexpensive &
got student deferments.

my brother got a job
working for the Government
in DC in order to avoid
the draft. Anyway,

G₁...

I knew hundreds
of "poor" men who
were determined not
to go to Vietnam and
did not do so.

If you could please
read this over the air
I would appreciate it —
as I cannot afford to
call. Since I have
heard nothing but general
statements saying all poor
men want to war, etc.,

6. ...

I feel this letter presents
a more balanced perspective.
Thank you.

I didn't really begin
to understand until
I saw Born in the USA -
where the hero grew up
in a small very patriotic
town - where most people
thought similarly + the
social pressure to enlist
was great. Perhaps this,
more than rich/poor,

7:-

Contributed more to
who went to Vietnam +
who didn't than merely
money + connections.

Sincerely,

