

Space Program

August 22, 1969

Mrs. Ray Stevens
2321 Moyle
Augusta, Kansas 67010

Dear Mrs. Stevens:

Thanks for your letter of August 19.

While I realize we have many pressing foreign and domestic problems the Apollo 11 astronauts were the first men to leave this planet with the goal of landing on another planet and for the first time in our history man set foot on another planet. For this tremendous achievement they, and the others who made this possible, were honored and rightly so.

It would be impossible for the President to personally greet and welcome home each and every soldier returning from Vietnam. He did, however, at great risk to his own safety visit the troops in Vietnam during his recent Asian trip. In my opinion, this was a clear indication of the admiration he has for our fighting men in Vietnam and of his desire to in some small way thank them.

I certainly share your views that everyone should pay their just share of taxes. The House-passed tax reform bill includes certain provisions which are aimed at closing some of the loopholes which have heretofore allowed certain wealthy individuals to escape paying taxes. Enclosed is a summary of the principal provisions of the House-passed bill which may be of interest. You may be sure I will remain alert for developments in the Senate when the time comes for action on this legislation. I, too, favor a tax reform program that will lighten our load.

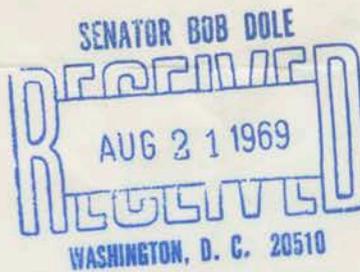
Any time we may be of assistance in any way, do let me know.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
U. S. Senate

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Enclosures

August 19, 1969



Senator Robert Dole
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Senator Dole:

In July of this year I watched the Apollo 11 Moon shot from blast off to splash down, then on to the ticker tape parades and on to the state dinner honoring the three astronauts. Granted I saw history made and agree that an accomplishment has been made. However as all this was going on I really couldn't get very excited as my thoughts kept drifting elsewhere. For instance: when the two men reached the moon I thought "this is quite an expensive trip for us (the taxpayers) to take, just sitting in our living rooms". It is my personal opinion that these three men have done nothing greater than thousands of our young American men are doing every day, fighting the war in Vietnam. As these young boys return home I don't see them being greeted by the President, a parade in their honor, nor an invitation to a state dinner. We have people in our country starving to death, and to see an event such as the state dinner, in my opinion, was in very poor taste. At this point I lost complete faith in President Nixon. These men could have been honored on a more conservative level.

As for taxes and the middle man. I realize we have to pay taxes for our country to operate; however I say let EVERYONE pay their fair share. It is common knowledge that any way you want to look at it - the middle man foots the bill. I am wondering how much more our elected officials think the middle man can tolerate. The middle class working man has no choice but to carry the load for the rich and the poor. I am definitely in favor of a tax reform program that will lighten our load -- not burden us further.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Ray Stevens
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2321 Moyle
Augusta, Kansas

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