

June 11, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: H. R. HALDEMAN
FROM: CHARLES COLSON
SUBJECT: Dick Cavett Show

On the Cavett Show last night, John O'Neill appeared for our side but the deck was badly stacked against him. Typical of Cavett, we couldn't find out who was going on. O'Neill, when he went on, was confronted by 3 other veterans, a dope addict, a fag and an absolute wild maniac paraplegic representing the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. He had thought Kerry was going to be there but Kerry didn't show as he has not on any of the programs that O'Neill has taped this week.

The real hooker in the program, however, was Dr. George Solomon of the Veterans Administration! He was the most hostile. At several points during the program he rather viciously tore down what O'Neill was trying to do and was totally anti-war, anti-veteran. For example, he said that the reason that most of the boys coming home have enormous psychological hang-ups is that they went over thinking the war was worth fighting and came back realizing that it wasn't, that none of them wanted to be there, that they were all disillusioned and that in effect all the veterans in the country were against the war.

What this does, of course, is to let the great unwashed who watched the program last night believe that the Veterans Administration or at least a prominent doctor of the VA, believes that all veterans are screwed up and that the war is wrong and immoral. People don't realize that he was speaking as an individual -- nor did he make that clear.

I had Don Johnson of the VA come over this morning to watch the show; he was horrified and uninformed me that this doctor is going before Cranston's committee in the Senate Tuesday to testify.

Obviously this is the kind of guy who plays into the hands of the anti-war senators and I'm sure his timing on Tuesday is no accident. He carries with him the credibility of being a VA doctor and, of course, he defeats our efforts to help the veterans get jobs by persuading everyone that they wouldn't dare hire a veteran. To make the situation more ridiculous, it turns out he is a professor at Stanford to whom the VA pays approximately \$20,000 as a consulting psychiatrist in its hospital system.

I blew my cork with Johnson and told him that he should fire this doctor today. Johnson said that he would love to but is afraid that all the medical schools would turn on him, that he would be accused of repression and that most of the doctors would resign. This is the kind of guy who is treating our kids and it probably wouldn't be a bad idea if they all did resign.

I am deadly serious about it. This kind of person should not be allowed to speak as a representative of this Administration. If you would like to have a more objective person than I review the tape, fine, but if its as bad as I think it is, he should be dismissed and to hell with the public ruckus that will go up. That kind of ruckus can only help us.

Do you approve? _____ Disapprove? _____ Tell Me to Cool Off? _____