

## Letters to Senator William Jenner

*Three letters to William Jenner commending him for his vote against the censure of Senator McCarthy in 1954. These letters were contained in the William E. Jenner Collection of the Archives of Hanover College.*

*Dated only a day after the Senate voted on the censure of Senator Joseph McCarthy, this letter reflects the patriotic and fervently anti-communist attitudes of its composer, who remained an anonymous American from Los Angeles. Unfortunately for this writer, "Tail-Gunner Joe" was condemned on the two counts of dishonorable and disreputable conduct with which he was charged.*

Los Angeles, Calif.  
December 3, 1954

Senator  
Senate, USA.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator:

Thank you for your vote against the Censure of McCarthy. We still have hope. For, it is recorded in the Bible, where God said if He could find but only one righteous man in it He would not destroy the city.<sup>120</sup> Allright [sic], we have here twenty men who are stand [sic] on the side of our fight to save our nation against the Godless forces of evil intent. Stand, stand, and stand! One on God's side—a majority.

We need a few more men of the McCarthy bent, men who get serious and irked at what is going on here in our midst whilst our men are being killed abroad in our defense. We need a few more voices crying in the wilderness this evil generation. History should teach us a few things. No nation has ever stood for long after it allows itself to be unfruitful and drunken.

We need leader [sic] who will not sell out, be bribed and deceived by these forces of evil both within and without. Jesus said the good Shepherd doesn't desert his sheep when the wolves attack. He leads them out, "and the sheep know his voice."

Thank you and God bless you



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<sup>120</sup> King James Bible. Jeremiah 5:1

*The following letter was written to Senator William Jenner, who was one of Senator Joseph McCarthy's greatest allies. The date on the letter placed it just days after McCarthy was officially censured by the Senate by a vote of 67 to 22. This came after the famous Army-McCarthy hearings and several months of Senate investigations of McCarthy's actions and accusations. Despite the views expressed by this constituent of Senator Jenner's, McCarthy's approval rating was very low at this time; he had lost the confidence of the American people.*

Madison County Chapter  
American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.  
Elwood, Indiana  
Dec. 6th, 1954.  
Hon William Jenner.,  
United States Senate.,  
Washington. D. C.

Dear Senator:

What ever happened to the Government by the people for the people ? What is happening to our beloved country ? Are we deliberately turning it over to the communist ?

What a shameful set of the Presidents [sic], to endorse the work of the Watkins committee<sup>121</sup> on the censure issue, and not one word of praise for the work done by Senator Joe McCarthy. How does he expects [sic] us parents to give our sons to fight this evil, when our own government is allowing it to flourish here in our country. ? [sic] or to allow a Senator to be censured for fighting the pinks here in the good old U.S.A. ?

Well I hope that the 20 real American Senators who voted against the censure move, will band together and try and support a third party ticket, lets face is [sic] the Republican party is dead. We want a party whos [sic] first interest will be America. and to rid our country and government of all the pinks, and communists who are at the helm now.

Some one ought to go after Senator Morse,<sup>122</sup> and censure him, he's done enough of damage to the republicans, and now he is out to get McCarthy expelled from the Senator [sic]. And Senator Flanders<sup>123</sup> should also be censure[sic] not only for starting this mess, for some very un answered [sic] questions you put to him, and he could not answer.

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<sup>121</sup> Senate committee led by Arthur Watkins, a Republican from Utah, to evaluate McCarthy's tactics and to determine whether he should be censured.

<sup>122</sup> Wayne Morse, Independent (at that time) Senator from Oregon who condemned McCarthy's tactics as early as 1950.

<sup>123</sup> Ralph Flanders, Republican Senator from Vermont who introduced the 1954 motion to the Senate to censure Senator McCarthy. He publicly compared McCarthy to Hitler.

I do not believe the 12 million people who signed [the] petition against the censure move, are going to take this lying down. I am afraid something will come of all this. It's a poor state of affairs, when the peoples [sic] voice has no meaning any more. God Bless you for the splendid work you are doing, and that goes for McCarthy, Knowland,<sup>124</sup> Bridges,<sup>125</sup> Bricker,<sup>126</sup> and many others.

Sincerely Yours.

Mrs. Sylvia Sykora



Dear Senator Jenner,

Thank you very much for putting up such a good fight for Senator McCarthy and Americanism. Your 22 men<sup>127</sup> will be a powerful force for the good of our country, and will win out, for there is nothing more powerful than being right.

All good wishes  
G. Bacon  
Newtonville, Mass.

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<sup>124</sup> William F. Knowland, Republican Senator from California, Senate Majority Leader 1953-1955; known as the "Senator from Formosa" for his support of the exiled national government of China.

<sup>125</sup> Henry Styles Bridges, Republican Senator from New Hampshire, Senate Minority leader 1952-1953, Senate President Pro Tempore 1953-1955.

<sup>126</sup> John Williams Bricker, Republican Senator from Ohio, former Governor of Ohio 1939-1945.

<sup>127</sup> Twenty-two United States Senators voted against the censure of Senator McCarthy.