June 12, 1952

Dear Paul:

Thanks a lot for your note enclosing copies of your correspondence with Mrs. Lorraine Pink. You gave her the right advice. I can sympathize with all the people who have friends and relatives in the Chinese and North Korean prison camps -- but your analysis of the situation is the correct one and that is what we will have to follow.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN
Honorable Paul H. Douglas
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.
United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 10, 1952

THE WHITE HOUSE
Jun 11 7:58 AM '52
RECEIVED

The Honorable
Harry S. Truman
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I believe you may be interested
in the enclosed correspondence.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Paul H. Douglas

phc/pac
June 9, 1952

Mrs. Lorraine Fink
6421 North Hamilton Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Fink:

Having been a Marine myself who served with the First Marine Division, I realize your situation very keenly. I can understand your wanting to circulate a petition on the exchange of prisoners in order to get your husband home. But I also am sure that this plays right into the hands of the communists, which of course you do not want to do.

The truth of the matter is that we have well over a hundred thousand soldiers in the communist armies to surrender with our pledge that we would "protect their lives." Now most of the prisoners do not want to return and the communists know who they are. To send them back would mean that they would inevitably be shot and tortured. This would not only be (1) a breach of faith with those who surrendered, but (2) would discourage other communists from ever surrendering in the future.

These are the reasons why President Truman refuses to send back prisoners who have refused to return. Hard as it is on our men whom the Koreans have captured and upon their families, I believe it is the right decision.

I deeply sympathize with you in your predicament but I have the feeling your husband would feel as I do.

With best personal wishes,

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Paul H. Douglas

phi/pas
June 3, 1952

Honorable Paul Douglas
U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Douglas:

I am the wife of Captain Gerald Fink, of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, who is at present a prisoner of war, held by the Chinese in North Korea, since August of 1951.

At the moment I am faced with a dilemma as to what action I should take with regard to a petition that has been started by the families of POW's in North Korea. The petition calls for an immediate exchange of prisoners on all for all basis. Inasmuch as I respect your opinion, recognizing that you are in a position to be much better informed on the current situation, I am writing this letter to you in the hope that you may guide me.

Naturally, the most important thing in the world to me is to have my husband released, as it is to all the families who have sons or husbands, either as POW's or still fighting in Korea.

The truce negotiations seem to be at a hopeless deadlock now. The information one gets in the newspapers is very disturbing and disheartening. I can rationalize pro and con with regard to our government's stand on the exchange question; yet, if I felt positive that the situation was going to continue to drag on and on with no end in sight, I would go out and circulate this petition and do my best to get as much action going as possible in that direction. I am in a position to get hundreds and thousands of signatures, both myself, and by friends and family who would be eager to work with me. Everyone I speak to feels the need to take some positive action. On the other hand, I am not sure in my own mind that this is the proper course of action for me to take at this time. I would not want to do anything that might be harmful and weaken our government's position in the present negotiations.

I want my husband to come home, Senator Douglas. I feel our country's FIRST obligation is to our boys — to my husband who served five years in World War II, 36 months as a fighter pilot in the Pacific — and now in the Korean war. I feel our country has a prior obligation to him and to all our
men who are prisoners in Korea, rather than to the 60 or 70,000 Chinese 
POW's who fought against us, and upon surrender do not wish to be re-
turned to their country, whatever their reasons may be. I just can't 
sit back any longer silently waiting, hoping and praying, as I have been 
doing. I feel I should do something positive and direct: I do not feel 
that our government should expect us to just sit back and try to under-
stand what is going on, if this situation is to continue dragging on and 
on with no end and even remotely in sight.

Ist, as I wrote at the beginning of this letter, I do want to do 
the right thing.....for my husband......for our country......for all in-
volved. Therefore, I am holding off circulating this petition until I 
hear from you. Whatever opinions you may express and information you 
can give me that may help me in reaching a decision as to my proper course 
of action, will certainly be appreciated.

I await your reply and thank you in advance for your consideration 
in replying to my communication.

Sincerely yours,

Lorraine Pink /s/ 
6121 North Halston Avenue 
Chicago 29, Illinois