

Jack Flynt - December 11, 1970

"I've never unloaded my views on Vinson to you, have I. I have never known a more unprincipled man than Carl Vinson. He would tell you one thing at 12:55 and another thing at 1:00 or 6:00 or tomorrow if it suited his purpose to do so. He was not an immoral man, he was an amoral man. I never could believe anything he said. It might be true or it might be false, but I couldn't believe it. He lied to me so many times that I couldn't have confidence in anything he said. A Georgia Congressman, who came to the House after Vinson and left before him used to tell a story about his earliest days. Mr. Cox asked Vinson how he was going to vote on an issue. Vinson said he was going to vote 'aye'. When the roll was called, Cox came before Vinson and Cox voted 'aye'. When Vinson's name was called, he voted 'nay'. Cox went to him and asked 'why did you vote nay just a little while ago?' When I asked you, you said you were going to vote 'aye'. Vinson said, 'You've just learned the first <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ of politics. It's every man for himself.' I remember the Rules Committee fight of 1961. We had the thing licked. At our first caucus, Vinson said there would never be any change in the Rules Committee by his vote. When the vote came, he voted for change and he was able to bring one man over with him." (Pilcher)

"He never had the knowledge or the depth of knowledge on military matters that other people attributed to him. Richard Russell knew more in one minute than Carl Vinson knew in twenty years. He was willing to

be the front man for anyone that was calling the shots. He was completely subservient to the executive branch. He enjoyed the power and with his control over military bases he could and would destroy any committee member who opposed him. He stayed in office twenty years after he had ceased to have any contact with his district because of his power to destroy the economy of his own district and that of the surrounding areas. He always located military bases around the periphery of his district and not in it, so he could enjoy their benefits and not their liabilities. He was the darling of ~~the~~ what we in Georgia call the liberal press. But I think he sold out the South on civil rights in exchange for his continued power over the activities of the Defense Department."