

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 19, 1961

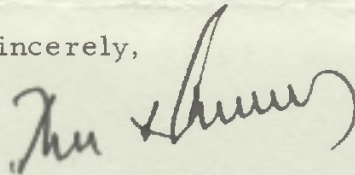
Dear Senator McClellan:

Pierre Salinger has informed me about the mix-up in regard to the Chaffee matter. We did not decide until about 6:30 last night to call up these two divisions. Secretary McNamara then called me at the White House at 7:00 to tell me that if we were going to call up these divisions we would have to reopen Chaffee.

I then asked the operator to call you and Senator Fulbright. As the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was meeting late Senator Fulbright called right back and I informed him of the matter. As I was then leaving I asked the operator to get you, but unfortunately I never heard whether she was able to reach you, which was I am sure our fault. I am extremely sorry about this as you have been exceedingly kind to both Bobby and me. There is no member of the United States Senate to whom the Kennedy family is more personally obligated and who is held in higher esteem. I recognize that our failure to inform you is a serious matter. However, I will make every effort on the next occasion to rectify the situation.

With kind personal regards.

Sincerely,



Honorable John L. McClellan
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

*I phoned the White House at 9:30 AM - 9-19-61
This was delivered to me in person at my office
by Pierre Salinger - The President's Press Secretary,
At 10:45 AM - on same date.*