

April 17, 1959

Commissioner Bernard R. Caldwell  
Director, California Highway Patrol  
Sacramento, California

Dear Commissioner Caldwell:

Mr. Robert L. Gollings, who served with our staff for a year during 1957-58 on leave of absence from your staff, incurred some minor bills for medical services rendered to his daughter by one of the local doctors. I am enclosing machine copies of the invoices and letter forwarded to him on January 29, 1959 requesting that he take care of this bill, to which he has not replied.

I wonder if without too much inconvenience to you and your staff you could have this matter followed up. As is often the case in a foreign country, the reputation of all Americans is established upon the attitudes and actions of one or two individuals. At present, the reputation of the Americans in this community and relations with this doctor are still quite favorable. We would like to keep them that way.

Please be assured that any action taken by you will be greatly appreciated by Michigan State University.

Sincerely yours,

Howard W. Hoyt  
Acting Chief Advisor

Enclosures

EDMUND G. BROWN  
GOVERNORBRADFORD M. CRITTENDEN  
COMMISSIONER

REF. NO. 4.11.6

May 11, 1959

Mr. Howard W. Hoyt, Acting Chief Advisor  
Michigan State University  
Vietnam Advisory Group  
American Embassy  
Saigon, Vietnam

Dear Mr. Hoyt:

This is in reference to your letter of April 17, 1959, regarding medical services furnished the family of Captain Gollings. This matter has been discussed with Captain Gollings and he submits the following information:

Upon his return here, a number of unused air transportation tickets were returned to Scandinavian Airlines System which were subsequently sent to Michigan State University for refund. Included in the amount refundable was approximately \$120.00 which represented his own money advanced over and above that furnished by the Project for air travel.

Repeated requests for this refund by both Captain Gollings and the Scandinavian Airlines System have been to no avail. To date, he has received no answer from Michigan State University regarding this claim; and is now awaiting an answer to a letter sent by him to Michigan State in which he inquired as to the proper course to follow to expedite a settlement of this problem.

Captain Gollings has deferred payment for the medical services, pending a settlement of the refund which is owed to him. He also indicated that there was some question in his mind as to whether or not the medical services were without charge as no demand was ever made for payment until the letter which he received in February, 1959. x

So that this problem may be settled, we have been assured by Captain Gollings that he will correspond directly with you.

We hope this information will be of assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

BRADFORD M. CRITTENDEN  
Commissioner

By *Wilbur W. Smith*  
WILBUR W. SMITH  
Personnel Officer

May 25, 1959

Dear Howard:

I am sorry that the tardiness in paying your \$20.61 has caused you any embarrassment. I would be hopeful that this failure did not create for you the embarrassment that your letter caused for me. However, I have explained to my superiors the whole story of the projects financial operation as it related to me and with as much factual data as I could to support the story. Knowing them to be the understanding people they are, I believe they fully appreciate the situation for what it truly is and ~~not in a manner~~ they might well have deduced from your letter.

To start with the whole matter might have been avoided had I immediately answered the only letter sent to me on the subject - for this I blame myself. But I didn't appreciate the urgency of the item since the first indication that there was even a bill in existence was over eight months after I had left Saigon. What took so long to bring this ball to light? You know of course that to leave the project one has to be cleared by every section and there was no mention of the debt at that time. What could have delayed this item so long and why did it suddenly become so urgent?

At the present time there is still due me from the University my transportation expenses home plus another amount in excess of a \$100 which I have been trying to get refunded to me since July 1958. This was money I advanced for my travel home and which was unused. I returned these tickets in July 1958 and have corresponded with SAS numerous times and also have copies of letters they have sent to the University trying to secure the refund but to this date ~~The~~ money is still not paid! Putting both these items together they constitute an amount about 20 times greater than the \$20.61 of which you complained to my Commissioner but the thought has never before entered my mind to write to the President of the University or to ICA. I suspect a fair implication of your writing the Commissioner would be that you feel I intended to not pay the bill but several weeks prior to your letter arriving here I mentioned the existence of the bill in a letter to the Coordinators Office in connection with the monies due me - it hardly makes much sense if I did not intend to pay the \$20.61.

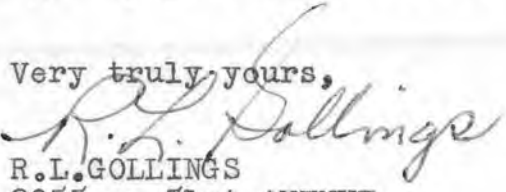
A second aspect of your letter to the Commissioner indicated the possibility of unpaid \$20.61 creating ill will and poor relations with the Vietnamese. While this may be true what poor relations must have been stimulated by the passing of eight months before you even submitted the bill to me? But aside from this I know you appreciate that both Vicki and I have a deep and abiding concern as to the feelings of the Vietnamese. Even you and I have talked about this in discussing some of the poor demonstrations of concern on the part of others in the project. Some of the best friends we have ever had were among our Vietnamese friends and we certainly would not knowingly harm such friendship for \$20.61.

In addition we have hosted numerous of the participants that passed thru here since we have returned. Both Mr Chamberlin and his wife and Vicki and I have given dinner parties for them and have taken them on trips around the area. At the present time we have a dinner party scheduled for the three that are attending here at Sacramento State College. Things are slightly more expensive here than in Viet Nam and I can assure you we have spent many times the \$20.61 you saw fit to write the Commissioner about. Again, just recently I made arrangements to have one of the Vietnamese judges visit at both the Department of Correction and Youth Authority work camps. I know you appreciate these are things that are not required of me and I only do them because it gives me pleasure to be with the Vietnamese again and to in some small way help them enjoy their stay in California.

I considered my stay in Viet Nam one of the high spots in my life. I have told the story of Viet Nam to all of my associates so that they might better understand the problems as I know them and thereby share my feelings as to the necessity for the effort and my hopes for the success of the project. If there is someone in the United States who has a concern for the public relations of the Vietnamese and is not on salary for such concern I feel I rate some consideration for the unofficial work I have done. What you believe I wouldn't know, but what ever it was it did not warrant the sending of your letter to the Commissioner. Not from a time consideration since you are responsible for a great deal longer time having lapsed than I was and not from a financial balance viewpoint for the University still owes much more to me than I to it. Why you did it I can only attribute to some personal reason of which I know nothing.

So that you may not have this item before you any longer I enclose a money order in the amount requested. I hope this represents the ends you sought by your letter to the Commissioner.

Very truly yours,

  
R.L. GOLLINGS  
2355 -- 51st AVENUE  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

cc Coordinators Office  
Chief Advisor

MSUG Box 34  
A PO 143  
San Francisco, Calif.

June 12, 1959

Mr. R. L. Gollings  
2355 - 51st Avenue  
Sacramento, California

Dear Bob:

Received your letter of May 25 yesterday. I would like to get one thing straight since your letter seems to be a personal take-off against me. I was only doing a favor to the Chief of the Administrative Services Division because I happened to know Commissioner Caldwell and I had been advised that there had been no answer from previous correspondence. I understand the bill in question was for x-rays for a member of your family and, therefore, did not involve MSU, hence it would not have been caught when you were "cleared by every section."

I also understand that the doctor asked our Administrative Services to assist him in collecting this since he had had no response on his letters. The Administrative Services then sent its letter of January 29, which you admit you were at fault for not having answered. I am sorry you have personalized this even to the point of "tardiness in paying you \$20.61" reference and of having the draft made out to me personally. You owe me nothing except a fair understanding of the situation.

I am sorry about your difficulties that you recount in getting the settlement from the University of reimbursements from your travel home. Having just had my fingers burned in this case, I will not offer my services or even venture any advice to you on the matter. I have learned another lesson--to keep my nose out of other people's business and refuse to be drawn in.

We all appreciate all that you and the Chamberlins have done and are doing for guests from Vietnam. These acts like your regular demonstrations while you were here, will long live in the memories of the individuals affected and often reap benefits much better than the high figures in aid and other highly publicized programs.

I wish I could assure you that there is nothing personal in this matter. I was only trying to help Griffin. Had I known it would have had this effect, I would have paid it myself. I value your friendship and confidence much more than the amount involved and I gather by the tone of your letter both have been shattered.

Very truly yours,

HOWARD W. HOYT, Chief  
Police Administration Division

MSUG Box 34  
APO 143, San Francisco  
June 16, 1959

Commissioner Bradford M. Crittenden  
California Highway Patrol  
P.O. Box 898  
Sacramento 4, Calif.

Attention: Wilbur W. Smith, Personnel Officer

Reference: Your Letter 4.11.6

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of May 11, 1959 regarding the x-ray bill owed by Captain Gollings to a local Chinese doctor in Cholon. I have also received a letter from Captain Gollings, together with a draft for the amount he owed the doctor.

As we received the story here, the local doctor had attempted to collect this bill himself but, when unsuccessful, came to us in January and asked if we could assist. Our Administrative Officer wrote Captain Gollings immediately. When he did not hear from him, our Administrative Officer asked me to write to the Commissioner because of my personal acquaintance with him. I did this on April 17. This bill, as I understand it, was for x-rays for Captain Gollings' daughter. The University had nothing to do with this bill and was not responsible for it in any way.

I am sorry for the unsatisfactory settlement of transportation costs that Mr. Gollings incurred during his travel home, both with the Scandanavian Airlines System and with the University, as recited in your letter. I can understand how it makes him feel, but this had nothing to do with the small bill he owed a local Chinese x-ray specialist for services rendered his daughter during his stay as a member of this staff.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

HOWARD W. HOYT, Chief  
Police Administration Division

cc: Chief Advisor, Coordinator, Executive Officer