May 29, 1968

Honorable Jack Brooks
Congressman from Texas
Capitol Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

We are outraged by the Federal Government allowing the so-called "Poor People's Campaign" to set up a tent city on our Capitol grounds. We think Attorney General Clark should have intervened with the Federal Government to require the removal of this encampment, including its tents, and not in any way support this government project. We are not only outraged but very concerned that the Federal Government will not respect the rights of all of us and certainly should not allow the use of this land by those who do not in any way represent the Federal Government.

We appreciate receiving your recent letter concerning the Poor People's Campaign.

It is a well known and outrageous attempt to stir up racial tension and to create a false image of the colored people demonstrating to secure their rights.

As you are aware, the right of people to petition their government peaceably is a cherished one and must be protected. This right does not, however, allow destruction of public or private property or the interference with the functions of government.

Should point out, however, that the present Marchers are not camped on the Capitol grounds, but on the mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. As you may know, the Poor People's Campaign was required to post a $5,000 bond and promise to leave the land as they found it before they were given permission to use this piece of land.

With regard to your concern over any unreasonable demands the marchers may make, we want you to assure you that I have and will continue to oppose strongly any measures which would in any way reward or provide for those who have the capability of sustaining themselves and their families but do not do so. To me, there is a clear difference in meaning between unable and unwilling. You can be certain that at such time as these matters come before me here in Congress, I will give them most careful consideration with your views in mind.

Thank you for taking time to write and hope you will continue to do so in the future. With every good wish to you and yours, I am

Sincerely,

[b/b/east]

Very truly yours,

Charles & Emma Langford
Honorable Jack Brooks  
Congressman from Texas  
Capitol Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

We are outraged by the Federal Government allowing the so-called "Poor People Marchers" to pitch a tent city on our Capitol grounds. We think our President or Attorney-General Clark should not have allowed this to take place. Our Capitol, including its grounds, should be revered and respected by all of us and certainly should not be used in this abusive, destructive manner by those who do not in any way support our government or pay a tax of any kind.

We are sick and tired of the colored people demonstrating and demanding unreasonable and outright gifts of everything from us...such as guaranteed incomes, more welfare, etc. They have the same rights we do but do not want to take advantage of one right in particular...that is the right to work and earn their own living like we do. They should not expect to be supported royally and carried on welfare rolls, generation after generation. In fact, our government actually encourages immorality among the people of all races by giving them so much (at our expense)...this includes the unwed mothers M.L. King's widow is campaigning for.

Back during the depression years of the 1930's, there were many of us with no jobs and no means of support. We did not expect, nor want, nor did we demand money and hand-outs from the government, and we did not ask for "organized welfare" in any form. We did not riot, plunder, steal, burn nor desecrate the Capitol grounds.

It seems our Congress is afraid to stand up for our rights...the law-abiding citizens and taxpayers of America. It's time government remembered us and protected us against terrorism, lawlessness and demanding, ruthless mobs. These law-breakers and rioters should be punished and not condoned any longer. The new laws protect them more than the old laws protected all the people.

Please fulfill your job as a Representative and stand up for our rights. You Congressmen are absolutely giving our country away and helping to destroy it by the legislation you have been passing in recent years. Actually you are killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. Why don't you remove those parasites, criminals and Communist followers from the Capitol grounds; send them back to where they came from, tell them to go to work and then you Congressmen start remembering us...the majority of tax-paying, law-abiding citizens who are not only paying your salaries but also supporting war in Viet-Nam, paying for the poverty programs, paying for all this stupid foreign aid (which we do not approve of). We are fed up with the "Fear intimidated Congress" and want this criminal disruption stopped. Please defend our rights and protect our "Capitol Building and Grounds" from these vultures.

Very truly yours,

Charles & Emma Langford