

PCR-I-50/91

Judge's Chambers
United States District Court
Middle District of Tennessee

L. Clure Morton
Senior Judge

October 9, 1990

228 U. S. Courthouse
Cookeville, Tennessee 38503

Honorable William W. Wilkins, Jr., Chairman
The United States Sentencing Commission
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1400
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Sir:

In response to your solicitation of my experience as to the effectiveness of the guidelines and whether there should be additional mandatory minimum sentences, I submit to you that after having had experience with the guidelines set forth by the Commission, it is my belief that the guideline ranges are too low. I realize that the Commission will not and Congress will not require the Commission to increase the sentences set forth in the guidelines. Therefore, the only alternative is for Congress to increase the number of mandatory minimum sentences. I am totally in accord with the opinion expressed by some members of Congress that the number of mandatory minimum sentence should be increased.

The above opinion is based on approximately 20 years as a district judge and 35 years before that as a trial lawyer.

Very truly yours,



L. CLURE MORTON
Senior U.S. District Judge

LCM/jwp

cc: Hon. Hamilton Fish, Jr.
Hon. Jack Brooks