

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

CHAMBERS OF
HAROLD D. VIETOR
CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
EAST FIRST AND WALNUT
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309

October 22, 1990

United States Sentencing Commission
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 1400
Washington, D.C. 20004

Attention: Communications Director

I share the views expressed by Chief Judge G. Thomas Eisele in his October 9, 1990, letter to Judge Wilkins.

I have another point to make, and in this respect I suspect that mine is a voice in the wilderness. I think the two point reduction for acceptance of responsibility is fundamentally unfair. Although I do not have the figures at hand, I am sure that the vast majority of defendants who plead guilty receive a two point reduction and the vast majority of those who go to trial do not receive the two point reduction. The practical effect is that most defendants who exercise their constitutional right to go to trial are punished for doing so.

I fully agree with the comments concerning mandatory minimum sentences made by Judge Wilkins in his June 29, 1990, letter to Congressmen Brooks and Fish.

Sincerely,


Harold D. Vietor