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PT In the section of the Appy book on Turning Points, the one that stuck out the most was the account of Clark Dougan. The story he wants to tell Appy most is an event that happened over Memorial Day 1968. It starts with Dougan's story of Greg Fischer, a fellow student from high school from the same homeroom. While Dougan pursued a college education, Fischer went to Vietnam. Dougan himself had been oblivious to the war largely, but he also said he sensed that they were all pawns of something larger. When he read The Memorial Day editorial in the *Cleveland Press* on the front page, Dougan learns that Fischer died in Vietnam. He also learns of a letter Fischer left behind. The envelope says, "Open this if I don't come back from Vietnam." It mainly told Fischer's family what to do with his military life insurance. It ended with a P.S., "Don't forget to give Joey my hockey skates." *Cleveland Press* was part of a larger conservative syndicate that had largely supported the war, and the fact that they would show an angry editorial about Fischer's death really highlighted a growing resentment toward the war. This was a turning point that Dougan thinks made even World War II veterans question the war. Incidents reported like this one fed into the growing discontent, and coupled with the other events of 1968 like Tet and My Lai caused people to reconsider the war. It also brought the war home to people. The implication was that anyone could have gone to Vietnam and died. The editorial, according to Dougan, was asking, "How many more people were they willing to waste?" The group that this was a turning point for most was what Dougan called 'Middle America'. Middle America up to this point had generally supported the war. This would have been a wake-up call to reconsider the previous views on Vietnam, that it was a duty to country to fight Communism. This episode was a turning point in that it forced people to reconsider their stakes in sending people to fight in Vietnam.

good -

detail Daniel Ellsberg's account in the section on Endings was truly an ending. Ellsberg had served in the marines in the 1950's, and in 1959 was hired by RAND, a prominent California think tank. He worked with defense policy much of his life from that point, eventually ending up in the Defense Department itself. During his time with the Defense Department, he helped work on the Pentagon Papers. The papers detailed Vietnam policy from around 1945 to 1968, and had been initiated by Robert McNamara in his final year as Secretary of Defense. Ellsberg was one of the few who bothered to read the papers in their entirety. It convinced him that the United States had no business in Vietnam. Ellsberg initially tried to get Congress to act on them, but when Congress refused, he turned to the newspapers. His new plan was based on his understanding of 'revolutionary judo' employed by the Viet Cong. The Viet Cong would purposely goad the American forces into attacking villages, and in the process some of the surviving villagers of these attacks would become Viet Cong. This helped them maintain support. In Ellsberg's case, it helped him goad Nixon into overreaction. Nixon formed a Special Investigations Unit from the White House called the 'Plumbers.' They're job was to dig up what Ellsberg may have had on Nixon and get rid of it. Ellsberg himself was initially charged with theft, conspiracy, and Espionage Act violations, but these were dropped when it was revealed that Nixon had illegally wiretapped Ellsberg and the Plumbers had broken into his psychiatrist's office. Ellsberg's plan had worked largely because the Plumbers had also broken into the Watergate hotel. Nixon got involved, according to Ellsberg, because he was worried that everything would lead back to his surveillance of Ellsberg. Ultimately, it led to Nixon's resignation, and many people, including Egil Krogh who was part of the

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Plumbers, calling Ellsberg a patriot.

However, Ellsberg himself became a whistleblower, and it marked the end of his career with government and with think tanks. When he released the Pentagon Papers, the papers themselves discredited the Kennedy and Johnson administrations in addition to putting pressure on Nixon. If Ellsberg was willing to discredit them, then there was also nothing to stop him from discrediting other administrations. Also, RAND and other think tanks could not take the same risk either, nor could they allow their names to be associated with whistleblowing.

"The end"

relating to the
Vietnam War.

Your end was Ellsberg's, which
I wasn't expecting, given
the VC goading details

More space / words could
have been used in
Part 2 to
make that
connection

Much better
than first
version