

**Edited from the transcript of a 115-page oral history interview of Scott Camil by Stuart Landers on 20 October 1992 on file at the University of Florida Oral History Archive.**



**Scott Camil**

L: This is an oral history interview with Scott Camil [*Marine Vietnam Veteran and member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War*] being conducted at his house in the southern part of Alachua County. Today is October 20, 1992, and my name is Stuart Landers. Tell me your full name.

C: I have to tell you, going back to the planning of this, I was one of the radicals. I was really hard-core. I was not a radical politically, in the sense of Marxism and all that kind of shit; I did not want to attack racism, socialism, capitalism, and all that. I just knew the war was wrong and the government was fucking lying. I was really angry at the hawks. I was also really naive. I cannot tell you how naive I was about everything. When we were deciding what we were going to do in Washington, I put a plan on the floor which caused a ton of disruption. There were a lot of people really pissed at me for putting the plan on the floor because they felt that the undercover agents, all the people that were there that were organizers from before knew how this game was played. I did not know about undercover agents, and I did not know about all that kind of crap. I was exercising my constitutional rights. I believed that free speech meant I could say whatever I wanted, that there was nothing against free speech.

L: What was your plan that was so terrible?

C: I did not think it was terrible at the time. My plan was that, on the last day, at a certain time, probably 11:30 or 2:30 (either right before or right after lunch) we would go into the offices – in our schedule with our congressmen, we would schedule the most hard-core hawks for last – and we would shoot them all.

L: Were you serious about this?AL 153 Page 69

C: I was serious. I felt that I spent two years killing women and children in their own fucking homes. These are the guys that fucking made the policy, and these were the guys that were responsible for it, and these were the people that were voting to continue the fucking war when the public was against it. I felt that if we really believed in what we were doing, and if we were willing to put our lives on the line for the country over there, we should be willing to put our lives on the line for the country over here. There was no way they could catch us all. It would let anybody who took these people's places know that if they do not represent the people, the people are going to come in and kick their fucking ass.

L: Did you have any support in this?

C: Yes, but there were people like John Kerry who totally flipped out. There were people who accused me of being an undercover agent trying to discredit the organization. I thought they were just full of shit. I just felt: "Put your fucking ass where your mouth is, you fucking pussies. You say that these guys are pigs, you say that these guys are the reason that it is going on. When you kill a snake, do you cut off its tail? Fuck, no, you cut off its head. These are the fucking people responsible." Even if the President wants to have the war, if the Congress does not fund it, it cannot go on. The Congress did not have the Goddamn balls to declare fucking war, and they did it through a back-door way of providing the money for the war. So, the President can say: "Well, the Congress is behind the war; they are paying for it. Don't blame me for the war; don't blame the executive branch for it. It might be [that] we developed the policy, but the Congress is paying for it." It was true. These guys were just as arrogant as they are today. [It is] these same fucking assholes that give themselves pay raises in the middle of the fucking night for mismanaging the country. Not only that, their cost of living increases are higher than social security or anything else. That was my plan. My plan was to just fucking shoot the bastards, and I would have done it.

L: But they talked you out of it?

C: No. There was a vote, and it was voted down. Just the fact that it was discussed pissed a lot of people off. It pissed me off that there were people that were not willing to discuss it [and] that wanted to table it right away. It was the most divisive thing that took place in the discussions about what we were going to do in Washington. Now it makes you understand more why the government was keying in on me.