

590-90

C-SPAN
400 North Capitol St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Fri, Feb 2, 1990

FEB 06 REC'D

Dear Mr. Brian Lamb:

MAR 08 ANS'D

I listened to your Journalist's Round Table on C-SPAN today. I find the interviews and calls from the public to be the most informative "news" on TV. We get some focus about the things most important to concerned citizens. There are some of us who handle our calls well and say well what is on our minds despite the tension of being on national TV and (in a sense) competing with experienced public speakers such as yourself and your guests. Others have great difficulty overcoming natural anxiety since we have not done well in the past. You have a lot of understanding about various aspects of human nature. My first suggestion is that you and your colleagues consider taking communications such as this letter - i.e., written input communications - and using them on the air to allow that segment of the public who are very ill at ease verbally to get their say. (This might also reduce the amount of inappropriate or less valuable outbursts of anger, etc. that are not very beneficial.)

I hear a lot of anger from callers. I hear a lot of frustration from callers. Many interviewees and Government figures also express frustration. We need leaders with good plans/answer(s). The debating of what to do is forever ongoing, of course. This letter is a part of my input to it.

My thinking is that the government has many programs to spend money to solve problems. Perhaps this taking of money (taxes/fees) from the people and giving it to others (along with taking a portion for themselves and staffs, etc.) is itself a major part of the problem. Perhaps spending money cannot solve all problems. Perhaps it cannot solve any problems. People can solve problems! We can do this if we observe, get data, judge what to do, then act. The results are best when these parts of the process are done well, obviously. This process is not easy, especially if one has no experience with the new problem that fate presents. It is complicated when the rules of government seem to require doing governing by committee.

One caller brought up the opinion that greed is toppling capitalism. All of you agreed that communism has failed. I am not certain that either has even been tried - if one is purist or exact semantically. (Not beneficial to discuss probably.) Communist countries have/had this same chief symptom of the human disease labeled greed. Communism (ideology) was not practiced. This country's government is not democratic - it has some democratic features and is a republic with a rather durable constitution.

Many of us are bothered by the increasing gap between the rich and the poor. Please consider that Marx was bothered by the same gulf between the rich and the poor. He blamed capitalism. I blame inhumanity of man to men in many forms. We collectively create our problems.

The making of the poor into poorer is one major injustice that the lawmakers and governing officials are responsible for. We, the people, have not pushed for economic justice, either. We have championed greed. We (as Pogo noted) are the enemy.

Most of the Congress is lawyers. Unfortunately, they lack expertise in economics. Most lawyers become such to get more money.

A few people will get rich in baseball, football, basketball, etc. This compensation is not balanced. It is further not balanced by the taxing of the income or the capital/property bought.

Tax the rich as much as the poor. Stop spending ineptly. We say we are capitalist but have over half the taxes being used for social programs! The poorer pay more percentage in taxes and get less. Let them keep enough. Inflation is an engine that helps the rich. Stop or slow inflation!

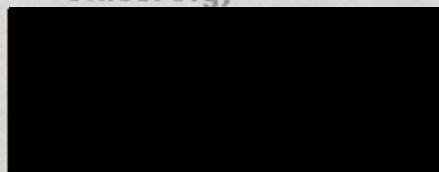
Please read the enclosure. This percent^{ge} increase COLA (and raises) formula has been one error that has gone on for years!

When our leaders use more compassion in economic policy and seek justice, there will be much more of it.

I think that the details of the expected results of the "rich lobby" plan to reduce the capital gains tax needs to be discussed. The questions about how the money flows to help this country and all the people's interests by creating usable capital in the correct places may show that there is not a defensible reality behind the stated purpose of putting ~~if~~ increased capital into where it is needed. I suspect that there is more greed motivation than loving and caring for the American people as a whole. If not, the debate may educate a large number of us - and I agree that education is very valuable for all citizens.

Thank you for reading and considering this epistle. Please keep asking the ^uto~~g~~hest questions. May C-SPAN continue and prosper.

sincerely,



Ridgecrest, CA 93555