

Walter Cronkite
CBS News
NYC

1 July 97

RE: The Brian Lamb C-SPAN Interview on
"Booknotes"

Dear Mr. Cronkite:

Braced as we were to yet another veritable "fawn-in" from Mr. Lamb, who, although a genuinely nice fellow and a big player in today's major media crisis, is nonetheless not in possession of a sterling record as a book reviewer of their format. Conversely, it remained for you, sir---as the "most trusted man in America"---to keep the affair going; and, above all, to let us in on happenings behind the scene at CBS News, the "Tiffany" of the troika, as it were. As someone with an extensive backgrounding in media history in the republic (my second grad degree was to have a thesis on featured the 3 major TV netnews divisions' treatment of so-called gun control in 1968; program aborted, but interest persists), I was utterly delighted when you went into the following incidents, not all pleasant for the company. And, therein, my friend, lies your character.

Your rebuttal of the Tet Offensive "betrayal" by CBS News in 1968 was brilliant; as was the entire criminal activity of "Project Nassau" of CBS (invasion of Haiti, breaking 2 federal laws). Those who say that the CBS Chicago coverage in 1968 was scandalous should have to deal with your delineation of it to Mr. Lamb.

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2. Cronkite

There are also those about who complained over ~~your~~ your remark "We don't carry those stories" in regard to pro-defense happenings (surrounding the 5-part CBS series on arms control). How on earth could anyone claim that, given your actual narration of early-day Pentagon films like "The Eagle's Talons."? Not being a paid-shill, of course, precludes such nonsense.

And the Benjamin Report, stemming from the Uncounted Enemy, that special which could have quite easily put "Black Rock" (what a bunch of losers to label your place this!) deeper into the morass of public mistrust---no longer seriously arguable. But, the viewing audience has a very short attention-span, and that mild embarrassment was precisely what you noted, ie, (paraphrased) We are more humane in the liberal camp, ergo, no accountability is indicated.

Each time you wanted to be quite open with us, Brian Lamb seemed to want to protect you and the entire CBS entourage. No matter, for the aura around you was sheer joy to us. It took a supreme moment of courage, actually, to admit that your words to Dr. Helen Caldicott about a total native unilateralist disarmament schema were a bit---er---off the target. Above all, the chance to run for the U.S. Senate from New York may well have been your finest moment in life, my man! Just think: you and Howard Cosell, a pair of magnificent intellects where needed most. Indeed.

Plus THE RETURNING OF A DEAD BABY IN
"MURDER IN AMERICA" —

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Many critics have panned your book; but, what do they know? Any faction sound enough to use Mike Wallace (wrongly dubbed the "king of ambush journalism"), Daniel Schnorrer (the term use of ^{the}crypto-Nazi for Goldwater was a slip), Billy ~~#####~~ Don Moyers (head hitman for the IBJ Gang not), etc. must know what is in store for them when the definitive history of your organization is ultimately done.

A grad student I know, when doing his ¹⁹⁷² doctorate, purchased in good faith what purported to be a complete set of the CBS News transcripts (TV) in 1968 from ELK's death to year's end on the issue of domestic disarmament (those near the controversy never use gun control). It turned out that what the ^{AND} candidate got was a purged set of transcripts, eliminating all references to the NRA which was not even ^a factor therein, other than references. Evidently, Richard S. Slant, News Chief, reverted to his scabrous roots as lawyer; and, it remains a classic of the degeneracy we have come to know and love from the netnews divisions other than CBS. A rarity, no doubt; but, no archivist would do this on his or her own, alas.

And they wonder why they are so despised and mistrusted in our most serious internal civil war since slavery. That is why your gracious admissions of minor flaws was so inspiring.
Most cordially,

cc: Lamb