

8/23

Dear Brian...

Environment-Conserving it--

here's the comments by Babbitt--though of course CNN gave us some pictures.... The Republicans succeeded in doing things very quietly...no raised voices... As things begin to turn around...there will be resistance to discussions that call for voices to be raised even a little---it destroys the hypnotic effects of low voice tones... Let's not lull Americans with hypnotic tones...let's have discussions that pull Americans into politics..for they begin to understand that their lives and their children's lives are effected by politics each and every day---

The nuclear mess---

If you've even browsed "Americans Ground Zero" about the government's use of Americans in the West (Nevada, Utah, etc) to test weapons effects on humans...then you know the Mormon Church had a lot to do with keeping people passive about the bomb testing! It called for obedient, non-questioning people... and certainly that's what Mormons are! But the companeis that made nuclear weapons made us all Morons!

ALASKA FISHERMEN BLOCKADE TANKERS

Protest Over Pace of Oil-Spill Clean-Up Ends in Meeting With Interior Secretary

ANCHORAGE, Aug. 22 (AP) — The fishermen who blocked off the Valdez Narrows to protest the area's oil spill clean-up agreed today to lift the blockade after Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt promised more help for the recovery effort.

Mr. Babbitt, on a two-week tour of Alaska, met with the protesters early today and said later that he would urge the Exxon Corporation to meet with them on their pending civil lawsuits over the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

The 60-boat blockade, which started Friday and prevented oil tankers from reaching the Trans-Alaska Pipeline terminal, was an effort by fishermen to draw attention to record low returns of pink salmon in Prince William Sound. Some fishermen attributed the dearth of salmon and a weak run of herring this spring to the Exxon Valdez spill.

The spill, the nation's worst, dumped nearly 11 million gallons of crude oil into prime fishing waters in 1989.

Mr. Babbitt promised today to urge Federal and state trustees who oversee the \$900 million spill settlement fund from Exxon to buy more land to protect salmon-spawning streams in Prince William Sound, and to aid local hatcheries.

Tankers Turned Back

The blockade had turned back the oil tanker Atigun Pass, chartered to British Petroleum, which dropped anchor outside the narrows, said Lieut. Frank Wakefield of the Coast Guard. Today, seven tankers, including two chartered by Exxon, waited at the outskirts of Prince William Sound.

Fishermen praised Mr. Babbitt's promises. "This is great news," said Rick Steiner, a college teacher and fisherman in Cordova who joined the protest. "It's great to have an Administration make a commitment like this."

Exxon officials, who had refused to meet with the protesters, issued a statement saying no link has been established between this year's low return of pink salmon and the spill.

British Petroleum and Arco met with the protesters, as did Gov. Walter J. Hickel, who had asked Mr. Babbitt to attend.

"I think it's outrageous that an American company with the size and sophistication of the Exxon company doesn't have the will to sit down and talk with a bunch of fishermen on this sound," Mr. Babbitt said today.

The secretary's comments came as the General Accounting Office released a report saying that of the \$200 million of the restoration fund spent so far to clean up the Valdez spill, little had been awarded through competitive bids and much had gone to Federal and state programs.

The report said that officials were being allowed to carry out projects they recommended, and that most of the money paid so far by the Exxon Corporation has been used for legal fees and administrative costs, and to reimburse state and Federal governments and the company for the costs of cleanup work.

Officials of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council could not be reached for comment today.



A member of the Nicaraguan National Opposition Union house in Managua.

NICARAGUAN RIVALS RETAIN HOSTAGES

Continued From Page A1

ing them what they were demanding.

But in a reflection of the unending political disputes that have paralyzed the Government, the discussions were reported to have quickly broken down into petty squabbles. A diplomat close to the talks said it was clear that no one could agree on anything of importance.

"They decided to issue a statement, name a delegation and hope that time would fix the problem," he said.

But time is working against Nicaragua.

In 1990, after more than a decade of Nicaraguans' killing each other, the contras agreed to lay down their weapons and end the rebellion they began in 1981 with the support of the United States. They had sought to overturn the Government that the Sandinistas established after overthrowing the four-decade military dictatorship of the Somoza family in 1979.

The head of the Sandinista Government, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, was elected President in 1984, but he was defeated for re-election in 1990 by Mrs. Chamorro, the candidate of a center-right coalition called the Opposition National Union, or UNO. It is in the UNO headquarters that the former Sandinista soldiers are holding the Vice President and others captive.

With Mrs. Chamorro's election and the peace accord that followed, there was widespread hope for tranquillity and national reconciliation.

But lingering hatreds among the former combatants, longstanding political rivalry among the small group of people who have traditionally controlled Nicaragua's politics, and crushing economic difficulties seemed to have smothered the hope and killed the reconciliation.

President Chamorro's own political allies quickly abandoned her. They accuse her of striking under-the-table deals with the Sandinistas, who are still the largest political force.

With the Government paralyzed and the economy crumbling, former com-

Killing of 9 Israel

NEW YORK STATE

Talk of a Nuclear Dump Again Splits a Community

Some Are Willing to Accept It, for a Price

Special to The New York Times

ASHFORD, N.Y. — For three decades, things nuclear have preoccupied this sparsely settled town of rolling hills and dairy farms 35 miles south of Buffalo.

First there was a grandiose plan for an industrial park for the nuclear power industry. Then came a factory that recycled used reactor fuel, whose legacy has been a \$1.39 billion cleanup. And two years ago, the town's main hamlet, West Valley, was torn by debate over its offer to become the home of a low-level nuclear waste dump.

New York State will be losing its only existing disposal site in less than a year, renewing talk of placing the new dump here and rekindling old resentments among townspeople, some of whom are willing to accept the dump — for a price.

Two years ago, the Town Board voted 5-0 to invite the state to place the dump here, in return for a one-time package of incentives worth more than \$4 million. In addition, town officials said the dump would cut residential property taxes in half.

Dump opponents were outraged, charging the board with ignoring a nonbinding referendum in which voters rejected the proposal 702-533. But in town elections several months later, anti-dump candidates failed to unseat two incumbent board members and the town supervisor.

Passions have cooled somewhat since what William T. King, Town Supervisor, calls "the year of our turmoil." Since then, dump opponents have concentrated their fight in Albany, where they have been lobbying hard to prevent lawmakers from lifting a seven-year-old state ban on bringing any more radioactive wastes to the town's main hamlet, West Valley.

New York now ships low-level radioactive waste like workers' clothes, machine parts and tools that become contaminated with radioactivity to a disposal site in Barnwell, S.C., but its contract to use that site expires in June 1994. The deadline, along with a Federal law requiring states to come up with their own plans for low-level waste disposal, has put pressure on New York lawmakers to find a disposal site within the state. A state commission, however, has made little progress in finding a site.

A Divisive Issue

Ashford is a prime candidate because the town is already home to the 3,340-acre Western New York Nuclear Service Center, a tract of state-owned land that is mostly vacant except for a 160-acre parcel that includes the old fuel-recycling plant and a closed low-level radioactive waste dump.

Talk of placing a new dump here has split local residents.

"There is a lot of animosity between us and the Ashford Town Board and the West Valley Chamber of Commerce," said Carol Mongerson, a longtime leader of the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes, which opposes the dump. "It's been an extremely divisive issue."

Some dump supporters say that many opponents don't live in Ashford and should keep their noses out of the debate.

Ever since 1961, when the former New York State Atomic and Space Development Authority gobbled up the 3,340-acre tract here by eminent domain, many here have felt that they have been used by outside interests.

At first that feeling was concentrated among the dozen or so farmers whose homes were taken and burned to make way for a proposed industrial and research park for the nuclear power industry. But as time went on, people started thinking that the promised complex was a pipe dream.

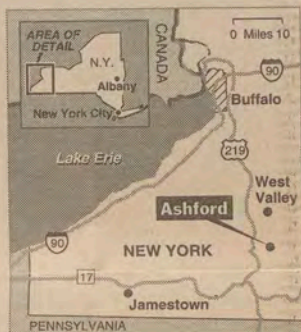
The only things to come of it were the nuclear fuel reprocessing plant

and a 15-acre dump, where about 2.5 million cubic feet of low-level radioactive waste was buried from 1963 to 1975. Both were operated by Nuclear Fuel Services. The dump, one of six in the nation in the 60's and 70's, was closed in 1975 when water seepage caused it to overflow. New York State has since installed a system to control leakage from the site.

The reprocessing plant operated from 1966 to 1972, extracting reusable uranium from the spent fuel rods of utility and weapons reactors. It was the only commercial plant of its kind, but it had trouble making a profit. Nuclear Fuel Services, which leased the site from the state, pulled out in 1976. Left behind was a 600,000-gallon underground tank with wastes so radioactive that a person touching the tank would absorb a lethal dose in five minutes.

How Much Is Too Much?

The old plant's parking lots are now jammed with the cars of more than 1,000 workers involved in a \$1.39 billion project to solidify the tank



The New York Times

Town officials said a nuclear-waste dump would cut residential property taxes in half.

wastes into glass columns, which will remain highly radioactive but will be easier to manage. The Federal Government is paying 90 percent of the cost, with the state responsible for the remainder.

Opponents marvel at how anyone could think of bringing more radioactive waste to an area that already has so much contamination. Jim Rauch, of the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes, said that, besides all the technical reasons for opposing a new site, such as potentially unstable geology, "It's just a horrendous mess."

Mr. King, the Town Supervisor, said he feared that since the state already owns so much land around the old reprocessing plant, it would put a new disposal site there, whether the town liked it or not. Better, he said, for the town to negotiate in advance and be compensated for the tax revenues it lost over the last three decades of state ownership.

"Our people lost 3,400 acres," Mr. King said, adding that it was nearby communities more than Ashford that supported the state's nuclear park plan 30 years ago. "Now they're the ones saying don't bring it in, it will hurt our town," he said. "It's completely reversed itself."

Henriette Gerwitz, an Ashford resident who has been involved in the coalition since it was focused on closing the reprocessing plant in the mid-1970's, said the new dump proposal has strained relations in the town of 2,160. There were always disagreements over West Valley, but few grudges, she said.

Now, she added, there are people who won't talk to each other. "It wasn't until money was introduced into the thing that it got nasty," Mrs. Gerwitz said.

courtesy of The Atlantic Monthly



I Was scared of the

8/23

Mr. Brian Lamb

C-Span

Bruce Babbitt-Exxon

Since seeing Exxon at the hearings re the Valdez oil spill...I've been of the opinion that working for Exxon is the same as working for the Mafia--

CNN covered Bruce Babbitt who got out there on a limb to say he thought Exxon should at least be able to come talk to Alaskan fishing people...

So...Brian...Conservation has to also be an important part of your political covering. Let's face it---the planet can get along without us...but we can't get along with the planet. (and we don't seem ready to do much inter-planetary excursions for new homes!)

How does religion effect the planet---

If you're read Alice Walker's book.."The Secret of Possession the Joy" (Resistance is the secret by the way!)...then you may have noted that in this novel which is about female genital mutilation in Africa + Asia, she comments:-

"Religion is an elaborate excuse for the harm men have done to women and the planet."

We have done very little looking at how negatively religion has impacted the planet. If you've read ARISTIDE...his autobiography, which I loved...he is poetic and creative and so loving of his people, of dignity, respect, and conscience.... and he comments that the Creator (if there was one!) told human beings to "Go forth and multiply" but did not say, "Fill the earth to overflowing!"...

Last week we saw the insanity of the Pope's visit here...where he exclaimed intellect and free conscience...and then denied it to Catholics! Imagine... encouraging the arrogant and anti-intellectual, indiscriminate breeding that has doubled our population in America since WWII! This is a fanatic church... a frightened church. Fearful of feminists...fearful that if they acknowledge the right to birth control that they will lose the fight against legal abortion.

(Remember...Pope John XXIII told Catholics to use their own conscience to decide for themselves whether or not to use birth control. This acknowledged free conscience even in religious matters---junking infallibility---and separated procreation from normal human sexuality.)

Should we allow religion to impact so negatively upon women and the planet-!? When women are devalued, children and nature suffer.

While 160,000 youths turned out for the Pope...ONE MILLION WOMEN MARCHED ON WASHINGTON FOR CHOICE AND LEGAL ABORTION!

PS: When do you think the printed press or the video press will be
able to feature Madlyn O'hair...
or any other humanist, agnostic, or athiest-?

Greatwork, Brian --- More, more!

New York Times
7-27-93

On My Mind

A. M. ROSENTHAL

The Torture Continues

In their living room in Atlanta, Hassan and Yasmin Ibrahim are having one of their nightly worried talks about their three little girls. Both want what is best for the children. But they cannot agree on a decision that will affect the girls every day of the rest of their young lives.

Mrs. Ibrahim seems a gentle woman. But she insists that each girl must in childhood have her clitoris removed.

In America, she says, it won't be as awful as back home in Somalia. She says here it can be done in a hospital, with a doctor and anesthetic — not in a hut, by a village headwoman, with

Female genital mutilation.

the child awake to the knife and screaming.

Mr. Ibrahim, a certified public accountant, says he has "a big question mark" in his mind. He does not want his children to go through what their mother had to endure, like most Somali women.

But his wife says without the surgery no Somali man will marry them. They would be "different" — and she would be betraying her culture.

"Female circumcision" is not illegal in America. Mr. Ibrahim rejects the euphemism and says "mutilation." I doubt many take place in the U.S. yet. But I selected the Ibrahim story to begin this column in the hope that the U.S. angle might arouse some interest among Americans in female genital mutilation, the world's most widespread form of torture.

That is also the reason that ABC producers selected the Ibrahim story to begin a segment on mutilation they made for the "Day One" program.

The 15-minute film was shot five months ago in the U.S. and Africa. So far the public has not seen it. It has been scheduled, postponed, edited to cut out some shock material, postponed again.

When I inquired, Roone Arledge, president of ABC News, said no date had been set but it would be shown in the fall. He said it would probably not be on in "Day One's" prime-time slot but later in the evening, when fewer children are in the audience.

Every year millions of African girls, and some Asians, are mutilated. About 80 million now live with the scars on their bodies and minds. No body can know how many more millions died from the mutilations — or the diseases to which their bodies were exposed by them.

As the Minority Group International of London describes them, the operations can include cutting off the hood of the clitoris or the entire clitoris, all or part of the labia minora part of the labia majora and sewing together the sides of the vulva by catgut or with thorns. The purpose is to prove virginity and reduce female sexual pleasure.

All this is done with sawtooth knife razor blade or glass, while the girl are held or tied down.

Some of the specific horrors are touched on a bit lightly in the edited ABC film. I hope they will be reinstated. I am all for violence on TV — the violence of reality, about war, drug and real crime, including ritual female genital mutilation.

But ABC went after the story and the film is brave, strong and important for TV viewers to see, the sooner the better. A few newspapers and magazines also have done good reporting. But no other mass violation of humanity has received so comparatively little journalistic or governmental attention.

In America, the capture of Chinese refugees received more press and Congressional scrutiny over a few days than the mutilation of millions of women has attracted over decades.

African Muslim women are principal victims. But in no religion is female mutilation demanded. It is rooted in superstitious contempt-of-women so deep that its victims, the mothers and daughters pay homage to the knife that mutilates them.

In Africa, women's groups work for action against the mutilations; a few laws are passed. But, like their colonial predecessors, most African governments fail to protect half the populations against maiming.

The rest of the world has failed too. The totality of religion, government politics, diplomacy, the courts, human rights groups and women's organizations has not provided near enough money, pressure or teaching for a real struggle against genital mutilation of women.

So two worlds have failed their own and the world beyond. We do not know why. We know only that they exist, and that every year the millions grow.

8/23/93

Personal:

Mr. Brian Lamb-C-Span

Women's Rights are Political....

Naturally this morning, you did not begin with a look at the increasing violence at Women's abortion clinics...because you do not see that as political. Women do! When towns in Denver and Alabama try to keep homosexuals from full civil rights... though that issue comes charged with religious implications as they impose themselves on state law...you none the less correctly cover the debates..

Yet...women clinics have seen escalating violence...it interferes with legal business ownership, it interferes with the practice of medicine, and advocates for women are politically involved in passage of a bill now pending in Congress that would make it a federal crime to obstruct entrance to a clinic. I think the story was covered in its sensational aspects all weekend..(wounding of Dr. George Tiller) but not in its political aspects...but media doesn't think of the impact upon women politically, and when they face this story...all men in media can see is the emotional storm that results from such stories.

But - Brian - if you're not covering religious politics, and if you're not covering specifically politics impact upon women...then you aren't covering Politics! (Yeah..."If you're not eatin' Wham...You're not eatin' ham!)

In Saturday's NY Times - Op-Ed Page - the Christian Coalition's Ralph Reed had part of a magazine piece excerpted... The idea...The Religious Right is Reaching Out- Yet...it looked to me that what they were basically saying is: fighting legal abortion and homosexuality is no longer bringing in money. Their reaching out by "White evangelists" is planned to ally themselves with Catholics/Orthodox Jews/racial minorities... There was no reaching out to women planned! Imagine! While they were basically announcing change, and a pro-family concern...there was no plan to reach out in a new way to women! (Even Dr. John Wylie of Pro-Life movement has told his followers that after the Elections of '92..they would have to - though they may hate it---at least "voice" concern for women)

AND...BARRY GOLDWATER..."MR CONSERVATIVE" IS GIVING YOU AN OPENING INTO THIS... Like Lenny Bruce...Edward R. Murrow*..the words are being said that will bring down the temple of the all-male-God...and the use of "God" to make money and win elections. Remember---Barry Goldwater is Pro-Birth Control and Pro-Legal Abortion and Pro-homosexual rights and Pro-Lifting the ban on Gays in the Military!

*McCarthy era end

My radio station 880am which I listen to on weekends for news updates thought Goldwater's interview was news...and political---

Goldwater was trying to save the nation and his party from the ultra-right wing... He chastized them for getting involved with moral issues...that were childish (gays & lesbians).... and he said he disdained the use of God to make money---and specifically named Pat Robertson... (a degenerate if there ever was one...comparable to Swaggart and Bakker I'm sure!)

So...FOLLOW THE MONEY, BRIANthat's what much of this is about!

By the way....the poor woman involved in this latest shooting is a victim of religious rhetoric... many of them are walking around repeating some of the outrageous things Terry randall has said..."well they are telling us this is murder, so we have to act like it is..right?"-- That is certainly Terry randall rhetoric..."If this is murder..and it is..then act like it is!"

The last I saw of Terry Randall a few weeks ago, he was preaching hatred and intolerance for some group...and saying"Isn't Intolerance wonderful!"---

The wo men in Terry Randall's life...his mom and her sisters...tell us he used to be fairly normal until he had an experience of some kind with a Cult!

Let's go Brian!

PS: I so much want to encourage you on this---

I'll be writing letters and calling all week now re trying to get the

- * Congress to protect the women's clinics.
- * Getting Congress to protect all women with funding for planned parenthood and elective abortion - in Medical Health Plan and Medicare/Medicaid for poor women---
- * Congress should protect children's free individual conscience...a subject we must return to--It's our highest privilege according to our national religion, our Constituion and Bill of Rights. Yet, we see constant intrusions upon the minds of youth to brain-wash them in a religious made at very young ages--
- * Congress should get the "Chaplains" (always male, white, and Jesus-types)out of the House & Senate---by the way, do taxpayers know we all pay for that!
- * Congress should pass legislation to protect children in their churches (catholic or otherwise) from pedophiles---It should be immediately reportable to civil authorities by members or church officials...with strong penalties if not reported! We must see to it that children in churches are warned that those in authority often use that authority for lessthan honorable ends... Thanks Brian
- * Congress should end total tax-exemptions to Churches for ALL their stock portfolios and ALL their real estate holdings! I do not think that is what our founder's intended.

8/23/93

Personal:

Brian Lamb-C-SPAN

What went wrong 8/23/93...?

Buchanan & Hitchens

Dear, dear---my, my -- What you have done to my life, Brian-!?

Of course---Hitchens, as the individual he is, won't cooperate...

The point is--he opposes Clinton for different reasons than Buchanan does...

but that is coming off as "united opposition to Clinton"---!

Part of your problem, Brian (and I think it is the way that other news shows are continuing the myth of conservative America...) is that you are relying too much on old blood...and not enough on new people in Washington, and new/old Democratic ideas. (Personally, I have to tell you I fiercely object to Buchanan--- I had no idea the impact these shows were having on America---I couldn't imagine ANYONE watching them or trying to get information from such formats! But, I do object to this Nazi-Catholic...who is well known for his bigotry being on any program)--

A caller is now making the point re disagreeing with Clinton on the part of other callers...many of us want Clinton to be more liberal...and that's the basis of our unhappiness! However, I am thrilled with Clinton as far as what he is doing to overturn the Reagan-Bush years...and I voted for Reagan twice--and Bush once!

Also...it amuses me that people in thenews don't have the news at their fingertips--- C-Span today, and CNN made much of the fact of the release of JFK documents---didn't you all read the NY Times this weekend? Only less than 10% of the documents called for a re being released...and, neither Bush nor Clinton appointed the five member panel that was supposed to deal with the 90%+ documents in conflict! How can you discuss this subject without mentioning those facts---if you all knew them? This gives a feeling of assurance to the public re release of files that they shouldn't feel... In fact, we have many problems with FOIA which was dismantled by Reagan and which Clinton has now tried to re-strengthen... Terry Anderson would make a good guest on that score!

Re Welfare program...very good. But again, comparing the costs to S&L bail out (which is off-budget by the way and not too often mentioned!) was unfair... the \$300-Billion so far tallied includes much more that isn't tallied...Interest on the borrowing to get the money etal.

Also, including WIC in welfare I don't think is appropriate... But we could say that Earned Income tax Credits are not only subsidy for the poor--it's a tremendous subsidy for the wealthy who benefit from low Minimum Wage rates (did you see the report in the NY Times this weekend re two economists from Princeton who did an actual study --vs theory and statistics--re what happens when the Minimum Wage goes up: here in NJ it went up--and employment went up...BECAUSE there were actually more MWage jobs open than they could fill at those low rates!) ---the wealthy pay slave wages at Bradlees/Wal-Mart/Marshalls/Caldors/supermarkets from A&P to Shoprite and Pathmark...and all the department stores! (The Malls are prime war scene for unionization---)

Re Perot: Someone commented, you gave him 2.5 million in publicity... I agree. You're a great interviewer, Brian, but you also let him intimidate you-- which is unusual. My daughter and I compared notes from Boston to NJ... We thought the most hilarious moment was RP telling Americans how all his money means nothing--- "No amount of money means anything---the only important things were family...no possessions meant anything--all unimportant!" He was of course saying this from his throne as probably the world's most active collector of odds-and-ends worth a million each! Room full of Remingtons, paintings, etal! The Magna Charter! What Hypocrisy...!

and a PS on that visit...I think Norman Rockwell must soon be recognized as American's #1 propogandist!

Re the Pat Williams (D-Montan) hearings on Electronic Monitoring in the Workplace-!

Do you monitor your employees Brian-?

I think Chomsky is right---in the Republican years... American business reflected the Fascist trends of government-! Unbelievable! (By the way...VP Gore is trying to get more Democracy into government from employee grassroots efforts...you are doing a good job in covering those excursions into government agencies with him!)

Best wishes!

Can you make up for today and Buchanan by having Chomsky on just once-?

Love ya all-Best Wishes...

for a great new season---get ready for health care!



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