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S- Amer Pres

C-Span
400 N Capitol St., NW #650
Washington, DC 20001

Subject: Presidential Series

After watching many of your programs, I undertook to write a few one-liners that seemed to me to portray each president. There are undoubtedly better such lists, but (this being my own) I like this one.

They are words that each could, should, might, or has spoken.

Your series is very well developed. Being on so many of the sites is in itself of great value. I think, however, that more than two and a half hours is too long. One of my friends remarked that the brain cannot hold more than the bladder. I noted that your 'experts' do not hang around for the full period.

In many ways, your program, thru the call-ins, presented as much of the public's impressions of the presidents as you gave thru your prepared data. As you know, some of the information phoned in was biased, incorrect, ill-remembered -- just as some was well thought out. I felt your guests were light in coming down on some of the more outrageous viewpoints. I guess that is called "Public Relations".

There is some merit in including Jefferson Davis as an American President. In many respects he^{was} as an able man and government officer. Unfortunately, he was disposed to the maintenance of an economic system that had outlived its usefulness. Many of your callers asked why certain presidents had not immediately abolished chattel slavery. Now, one hundred fifty years after that was done, we still have a long ways to go. It is easy to look back and say that they should have done it, but many men then on the spot knew it was a problem and one that could not be solved instantaneously or easily.

Of course, if you include Davis, you might also want to include The Emperor Norton.

yours truly,
[REDACTED]



WORDS OF OUR PRESIDENTS

(Some true, some not)

1. George Washington:-- I'm not kidding you, General Braddock; there ARE hostile indians behind those trees.
2. John Adams:-- Even British soldiers are entitled to a fair trial.
3. Thomas Jefferson:-- Go west, Lewis and Clark, go west.
4. James Madison:-- The British are coming. Dolley, bury the silver and save the paintings.
5. James Monroe:-- The Americas are for Americans only!
6. John Quincy Adams:-- Slaves should be heard.
7. Andrew Jackson:-- Say anything about my Rachel, and you'll wake up dead.
8. Martin Van Buren:-- Mutual forbearance and reciprocal concessions.
9. W H Harrison:-- I'll make this speech out in the rain if it kills me.
10. John Tyler:-- I'm a Confederate congressman now.
11. James Knox Polk:-- Texas and Oregon rightfully belong to us.
12. Zachary Taylor:-- Don't you tell me that the Nueces is the national boundary line.
13. Millard Fillmore:-- No man should accept a college degree which he cannot read.
14. Franklin Pierce:-- If we talk this secession stuff over long enough, it'll blow itself out.
15. James Buchanan:- I'll not put up with your confiscating National Property.
16. Abraham Lincoln:-- The Union must be preserved.
17. Andrew Johnson:-- Wrap me in the American Flag and lay my head on the Constitution.
18. U S Grant:-- I intend to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer.
19. Rutherford B Hayes:-- Lucy, we must serve something stronger than lemonade at the State Banquets.
20. James A Garfield:-- I've sworn to execute the laws; go ahead regardless.
21. Chester A Arthur:-- Roebling sure did a fine job building this bridge.
- 22/24. Grover Cleveland :-- I admit it; I'm the father.
23. Benjamin Harrison:-- She's a General, but I'm the Commander-in-Chief.
25. William McKinley:-- Spain, Spain, Spain, you ought to be ashamed for blowing up our Maine.
26. Theodore Roosevelt:-- Bully!
27. William H Taft:-- Our little brown brothers.
28. T Woodrow Wilson:-- We are too proud to fight.
29. Warren G Harding:-- Nan Britton? Never heard of her.
30. Calvin Coolidge:-- I do not choose to run.
31. Herbert Hoover: -- Save food for the poor, starving Belgians.
32. Franklin D Roosevelt:-- Prosperity is just around the corner.
33. Harry S Truman:-- Drop The Bomb and get this war over with.
34. Dwight D Eisenhower:-- Let the Russians take Berlin -- the prestige is not worth American lives.
35. John F Kennedy:-- I am a Berliner.
36. Lyndon B Johnson:-- Don't take chances -- run for two offices at the same time.
37. Richard M Nixon:-- There are a billion customers in China.
38. Gerald R Ford:-- I got this job thru a friend.
39. Jimmy Carter:-- I read a chapter in my Spanish-language Bible each night.
40. Ronald Reagan:-- Mr. Gorbachav -- tear down that wall.
41. George H W Bush:-- A thousand points of light..
42. William Clinton:-- I never (wag) had relations (wag) with that woman (wag).