

October 12, 1996

C-Span Viewer Services
400 North Capitol St., NW
Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

Dear C-Span:

I watched one of your programs rebroadcast Saturday morning in the Boston area on October 12, 1996. The guests were Victoria Valentine, "Emerge" magazine and Mathew Rees, "The Weekly Standard." The guests were discussing newspaper articles that had caught their attention.

Rees was discussing an article about the "dumping" of Mexican tomatoes in Florida. He was not well informed on the subject. Rees was unaware that the Florida farmers were upset because Florida's entire winter vegetable business, not just tomatoes, is now in jeopardy as a consequence of the "dumping" of Mexican produce, not just tomatoes, upon the American market, not just in Florida.

This is the direct result of the NAFTA trade agreement which gives the Mexican government free access to all of our markets. The Mexican government subsidizes Mexican farmers. They have a government planned farm economy. Mexican labor costs are 1/10 of labor costs in the United States, including the Florida area. The Mexican government is dumping winter vegetables on the American market way below their cost. The strategy is to undercut the American farmers until they are put out of business, which is already beginning to happen. Then the Mexicans will have the entire winter vegetable market to themselves.

NAFTA could not have been passed without the support of farmers. The only way they gave their support to Clinton for NAFTA was because Clinton promised the farmers price supports and market protection. The farmers supported Clinton. Now, he has reneged on his promises. Rees missed all of this. His comments were incipient.

Rees also brought up an article which criticized Kemp's efforts in the recent debate. Rees not only was ill informed on the previous subject but he is critical of the Republican

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Page 2

Party's efforts. Some conservative. He is typical of many of the so-called conservatives that write for "The Weekly Standard." They are not really conservatives. They may be economic conservatives, However, they certainly are not social conservatives. They tend to be social moderates, at best and social liberals, at worst. They do not represent the conservative point of view fairly or effectively. Kristol and his crew are basically moderates, which is probably why you have so many people from that publication on your various shows. You do favor moderates. That is fairly obvious.

Sincerely [REDACTED]

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Framingham, MA 01701-3419

fax [REDACTED]

RJS:rs