

[REDACTED]
Wabash, IN 46992

June 12, 1999

O. Amel Me

Dear C Span,

As most people have said, generally we have quickly become "addicts" to your fascinating series on the presidents.

I'm glad your guests are talking back to all the racists - and that's what the African-Americans are - who call in about the evils of slavery, especially last evening. I cannot buy something if someone isn't willing to sell. I told that to one of our church officers, who had substituted for our Sunday School teacher, a few years ago. He said he had never thought about that but admitted I was right; we had discussed slavery.

What are we supposed to do about it? They completely turn a deaf ear to any logical answers. My husband thinks they're trying to kill your program. As two callers said a few weeks ago, those comments and questions are way off the subject (on Pres. Tyler), and could you please get back to it?

As Billy Graham has said, all people on the earth have been slaves to someone else at one time. There is still slavery going on, especially in the Mideast. What about those people? No one

knows how many. It has been estimated the number is at least 1,000,000. If these individuals are so unhappy here, let them go to Africa. They can't be simply Americans; they have to be African-Americans. I'm also glad someone said just because a president had slaves, he wasn't automatically bad nor automatically good if he did not.

Maybe all these tangents will be over after Lincoln. We're wondering how you'll fit all that can be said about him into only $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. We will have to miss next week on Pierce, due to a Sunday School class party. Sorry to say, we will deliberately miss the last one. We lived thru' Kennedy. I tell young people now I did not think he was a good president. I am also convinced the present one was elected because he looks like Kennedy.

A few weeks ago much space was given to Tecumseh. No one said he was so highly regarded by both Whites and Indians that when our state capital was being moved from Corydon to its present site, there was quite a conflict as to what its name should be. A vote was taken, and Indianapolis was chosen over Tecumseh by a very narrow margin. Since Brian Lamb

is originally a Hoosier, I thought he would say it. There are only 4 states whose capitals start with the same letter as the state. If the name of Tecumseh had been chosen, there would be only 3.

I know you originally do these on Monday mornings. They are shown on Friday evenings in our area. Will you ever have reruns? As time goes on, there will probably be a few more we will have to miss. It would be nice if somehow we could catch up that way.

One more thing on slavery... In the late 1840's an Englishman came over to see how it was working. He observed if a slave were ambitious, he could start working at sunrise and be done by 1 P.M. If not, he had to finish later. But no one worked in the afternoon. All slept, and mostly out in the sun. No one beat them to make them work. So what is cruel about that? He concluded it was a good system.

What if the South had won? It's a stupid question now, of course. When I was in Bible college in Lincoln, Ill. (the only city named after Lincoln with his permission) students

would debate such things afterwards. I didn't, as there was always research to be done about a paper to be written; and I was never late with a paper. But it does make one wonder... Would we still have slavery now, or would it gradually have died with the Industrial Age? I prefer to think the latter. So what would all the discontents do with that?

I've waited a long time to get the complete address and finally did last evening. I'll probably send another letter later. Thanks again for this marvelous series. It certainly should win some kind of documentary award next year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. William P. (Mary Ellen) Cook