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June 4, 1993

Mr. Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 North Capital Street
NW#650
Washington, D.C.20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

You may find the tone of this letter angry and nasty, but the anger comes from years of growing concern about the increasing unfairness, distortion, and degradation of our political system by greed and hypocrisy.

Those who are perplexed by the constant attacks on the President whenever he espouses the cause of the poor need to understand why these attacks happen.

Debate related to the government of the United States, the states, county, and local government (government at all levels) has become increasingly disingenuous (read dishonest) because of the deterioration of the economic system in this country and the obvious (but undiscussed) conflicts of interest of the public debaters and analyzers.

It can be estimated that at least 8% of the people in this country (of working age ?) are unemployed. Most estimate that an equal number have stopped looking (we're up to 16%), and that at least 30% are underemployed (we're now up to 46%). Add to that the number of poor or marginally poor retired people on fixed incomes and it can easily be seen that a vast majority of the people make considerably less money than than the elected politicians and print and electronic media people most often seen, heard and read debating public policy.

Simply put, the most powerful officials, elected and appointed, and the significant media people make a lot more money than the vast majority of the people in this country and have a powerful personal stake in the status quo.

Is it any wonder that government in this country favors the rich and the powerful, and that almost all tax legislation that has passed in the past twenty years has been regressive and increasingly tilted to favor the rich and the powerful. It is simply because the people who make public policy have a vested interest (which few of them even hint

at) in maintaining a system of government that robs the poor and low income persons as they simultaneously take very good care of themselves.

Every time legislation or public policy is proposed that might be helpful to the vast majority of the people who are less well off - and these occurrences are becoming less and less frequent - the powerful people who do practically all of the debating discuss these proposals as though they are a danger to the republic and, of course, to us, the beknighted poor and low income and low income folk they care so much about.

What these opinion leaders, the politicians and the press don't tell us (the vast majority of them seem incapable of this level of honesty) is that they have theirs and they have no intention to share the bounty with the rest of us poor saps who are also called upon to pay ADDITIONAL taxes through regressive income, property, and sales taxes to supply them with the various forms of welfare they have learned so well to enjoy.

What is missing from debate is something these opinion leaders occasionally use in debate when their ox is gored, a discussion of their (the opinion leaders') conflict of interest.

Why should they care that many of us are unemployed or underemployed, or living on fixed low incomes with no health insurance, no money to go to a dentist, or saddled with low paying jobs with no health insurance, no money to go to a dentist, no paid vacation or or sick leave, no money to cover any emergency.

The opinion leaders have all of these things and just don't want to share. But they don't tell us that. They just present us with their pompous and sanctimonious criticism of anything that would help us and/or cost them and dishonestly (by calculated omission) make their arguments in ways that suggest that they are acting in behalf of our interests, in other words, they lie (not all of them - there is a John Kenneth Galbraith - "the Politics of Contentment, a William Greider - "Who Will Tell The People", a Tom Harkin - the only real Democrat who ran for President and got on the ballot in 1992, a Don Edwards, a Donald Reigel, a Ted Kennedy, a Mario Cuomo, and a dwindling number of other successful people who are willing to share with the rest of us). But too many of those of the powerful in government and the media lie to us and line their pockets while pretending that they are our friends and protectors.

Few Americans are aware of publications like THE NATION and THE PROGRESSIVE, much less read them, while opinion leaders

continue to successfully deceive people into going against their own interests to support the opinion leaders' selfish way of life.

Everytime I hear some media type or politician with a six figure income cry crocodile tears about "confiscatory" taxes while I pay installments on back taxes owed for two years in which I received a total of less than \$11,000 in unemployment benefits that were not withheld but rather owed at the end of the year to both the state and federal governments, I want to vomit on their \$200 shoes.

I Graduated [REDACTED] in 1959 with a degree in broadcasting and got an MS in journalism from [REDACTED] in 1962. I am also a licensed nurse. Because of a heart attack (which caused no permanent damage) and age discrimination (our youth oriented media and culture do not care about this most underdiscussed injustice our society visits upon its citizens) I work as a security guard for less than \$7 an hour with no benefits.

I challenge the opinion leaders to bring me or someone like me into the debate to discuss the issue of "Conflict of Interest and the Deterioration of Representative Democracy".

Hopefully ,
[REDACTED]