

2933-90

August 28, 1990

Mr. Christopher Wren
c/o Brian Lamb, C-Span
400 No. Capitol St.
Washington, D.C.

SEP 10 REC'D

Dear Mr. Wren:

Two rather obvious questions were not asked by Brian Lamb in that hour-long discussion about your book, "The End of the Line". Why the assignment in South Africa; and what about Tien Namen Square?

However, the intent of this letter has to do with "blindness" that affect perceptions. In William O. Douglas' autobiography, "The Court Years. 1939-1975", he recounts that the Chief Justice, Charles Evans Hughes, said to him when he came on the Court, "Bill, you should know that 90% of the decisions at our level are based on emotion; the other 10% are the rationalizations to explain away the other 90%." My only reservation about that remarkable bit of insight about human behavior is that Hughes limited it to the Court. In other words, one's perceptions of events, concepts, or the world are filtered through one's prejudices (emotion concretized).

Case in point: your perceptions about apartheid and the brutality of the South African police. Where do you think apartheid is more widespread, South Africa or in the United States? South Africa? I invite you to walk the streets of the numberless (and I hesitate to even estimate the 100's) urban areas in this country that have been devastated into jungles-in-fact by blacks. Once a neighborhood is more than 18% black (one study in New York) and whites or others do not voluntarily leave, blacks harass and terrorize them until they get out or are burnt out. As for those "brutal" South African police, you said you have been in at least 50 countries, but is it possible that you have selected out the areas which have had to try to control either rioting mobs or those trying to use the TV and other news media, in order to get recognition? I trust that when you return to South Africa that you will avail yourself of some of the ongoing disorders, say, in Natal and maybe some "necklacings", to brief yourself on the nature of mobs, mob fever, and still the primitive means available to the police to control the situations. Of course, it takes a bit of understanding of what the police are faced with, but I believe you share another attribute of so many Americans, who are so righteous.

But, then, I have my own prejudices; I will never forgive those who helped to force Rhodesia back into the jungle from the thriving nation that Cecil Rhodes and others built.

Yours truly,

Broderick, CA 95605



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Please forward
as necessary

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