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January 25, 1998

C-Span
Washington Journal
400 N. Capitol St. N.W.
Suite 650
Washington D.C. 20001

Dear Gentlepersons:

Why do you put telephone numbers on the screen? This is the second time I have tried to get through to C-Span, the first being during the Tocqueville series and the second the broadcast today about President Clinton. Today I dialed and redialed and got a busy signal. Then I got a ringing and was prepared for my call to be answered. However, after a dozen rings I got the message that there is no answer and to try my call again, later.

Here is my comment on today's broadcast.

We are a moral nation and a nation which functions under law, not under a dictator.

I adjure the president to tell the truth about the allegations of obstructing justice and perjury. These are key issues linked to his competency to head our country. Our leaders cannot be allowed to abuse their power. The power is vested in leaders by the people and it is a sacred trust.

If President Clinton lied under oath or if he obstructed justice by requesting silence from his subordinate, he must admit and explain why he did it and ask for forgiveness. Otherwise, I judge him as using childish behavior, when caught in a transgression. He could, if he was courageous enough, then take this situation as an opportunity to address an ongoing and condoned myth that men may exercise sexual license and do, and enjoy tacit acceptance of extra-marital affairs.

We are a moral nation and moral behavior is expected of our leaders, our spouses, our teachers. We raise our children to uphold them. The last moral issue to be addressed is the sexual license men take. President Clinton is in a position to bring this moral issue to the forefront and clarify it. Do we want to believe the myth that men's power is in their penis; that their masculine prowess is reflected in how many women they seduce or impregnate?

As long as we tacitly approve of a sexual double standard, one for men and one for women, how can we fault even our president for

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exercising this privilege of manhood?

How can an adult woman complain of being taken advantage of by a man who does not rape her, bind or gag her or otherwise render her helpless?

How can a man, any man, be faulted for exercising an historical double standard that he can womanize and his wife cannot?

If this standard is permitted, even reluctantly, then he could rationalize he is not doing anything wrong by womanizing, so he can say, "I did nothing wrong and the charges are specious."

Clinton lied under oath that he knew Jennifer Flowers, he admitted the affair later. He will have to explain why he lied under oath.

Clinton went on to have another affair, which is the subject of the current crisis. He is accused of trying to pay her off to keep quiet about it. He will have to explain why he tried to silence her because this is an obstruction of justice.

I think he can accomplish both goals by saying what everyone knows:
that men exercise this privilege and he is a man;
the woman Flowers "tattled" on him;
that he lied at first because married men are not supposed to flaunt their affairs or let their wives know about them;
that he later admitted it because he was advised to do so, to end the publicity.
that he did try to silence Lewinsky (I don't know her name) because the double standard is a private one;
his role as president is separate from his private life;
he does not abuse his political powers.

Then, he can address the public on the issue of this double standard and whether men are culpable for exercising it. He can even go as far as to state his position on it. He can also say that this double standard has come into question lately, times have changed, and he will have to change his behavior. He might even call on all American men to do the same. It's time for men to change.

Men and women can have an open marriage by choice and consent and there is no problem. When they get married, they can choose their options. If it is a closed marriage, no extra-marital affairs for either of the partners and the parties choose this option, they must put this in the contract and then uphold it. It is a contract. If it is an open marriage, then the contract should so state.

President Clinton must make a public statement because his private affairs have become a public issue and a political issue. What he does with this lemon is up to him. If he addresses the double standard, he may be able to make lemonade out of the lemon.

President Clinton's personal life is not and should not be linked to his role as president. I think the people know that they are not linked. His political adversaries will try to link them.

We are a moral country in all aspects except this double standard.

Sincerely yours,



P.S. Will you devote a program to addressing the double standard? History will show that about 14 presidents have had extra-marital affairs. Should it go on? Should men have open marriage contracts?