

[REDACTED]
Berrien Springs MI

October 15, 1994

*Opinion
Programming*

Mr. Brian Lamb:

C-SPAN

400 North Capital St. N.W. Suite 650
Washington DC 20001

Dear Brian:

Your willingness to do some homework in preparation for an interview, and then ask a clear question and remain quiet so the interviewee can answer, stands like a bright light in a dark jungle of babblers who rudely chop up answers from subjects visibly better informed.

The exchange with callers and Senator McCann this morning on the Hatii adventure, was good but it cried for insertion of more pungently directed references like the following:

*STARTED
THIS ON
SEPT 22*

Page 2. A striking Paragraph from
Senator Fulbright's

" Arrogance of Power "

Page 3. Justice Jackson's 1948 lines
, taken from the preface to Merlo J.
Pusey's

" The Way WE Go to War "

Page 4. Mark Twain's benevolent and
clairvoyant Satan speaking in

" The Mysterious Stranger "

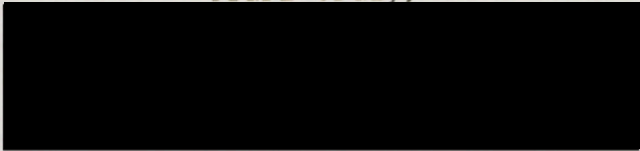
"For the most part America has made good use of her blessings, especially in her internal life but also in her foreign relations. Having done so much and succeeded so well, America is now at that historical point at which a great nation is in danger of losing its perspective on what exactly is within the realm of its power and what is beyond it. Other great nations, reaching this critical juncture, have aspired to too much, and by overextension of effort have declined and then fallen.

" The causes of the malady are not entirely clear but its recurrence is one of the uniformities of history : power tends to confuse itself with virtue and a great nation is peculiarly susceptible to the idea that its power is a sign of God's favor, conferring upon it a special responsibility for other nations --- to make them richer and happier and wiser, to remake them, that is , in its own shining image." Power confuses itself with virtue and tends also to take itself for omnipotence. Once imbued with the idea of a mission, a great nation easily assumes that it has the means as well as the duty to do God's work. The Lord, after all , surely would not choose you as His agent and then deny you the sword with which to work His will. German soldiers in the First World War wore belt buckles imprinted with the words " Gott Mit Uns. " It was approximately under this kind of infatuation ---- an exaggerated sense of power and an imaginary sense of mission ---- that the Athenians attacked Syracuse and Napoleon and then Hitler invaded Russia. In plain words, they overextended their commitments and they came to grief."

WHO HAS
SAID IT
BETTER?

Have you seen anything that reads more precisely onto our
present adventure ?

Yours Truly,



*No one will question that this power
[this vague, undefined and undefinable "war power"]
is the most dangerous one to free government in
the whole catalogue of powers. It is usually invoked
in haste and excitement when calm legislative
consideration of constitutional limitation is
difficult. It is executed in a time of patriotic
fervor that makes moderation unpopular. . . .
Always, as in this case, the Government urges hasty
decision to forestall some emergency or serve some
purpose and pleads that paralysis will result
if its claims to power are denied or their
confirmation delayed.*

Justice Robert H. Jackson
concurring in *Woods v. Miller Co.*,
333 U.S. 138, 146 (1948).

In Mark Twain's novel *The Mysterious Stranger* a benevolent and clairvoyant Satan said the following about war and its corrosive effects on a society:

There has never been a just one, never an honorable one—on the part of the instigator of the war. I can see a million years ahead, and this rule will never change in so many as half a dozen instances. The loud little handful—as usual—will shout for the war. The pulpit will—warily and cautiously—object—at first; the great, big, dull bulk of the nation will rub its sleepy eyes and try to make out why there should be a war, and will say, earnestly and indignantly, "It is unjust and dishonorable, and there is no necessity for it." Then the handful will shout louder. A few fair men on the other side will argue and reason against the war with speech and pen, and at first will have a hearing and be applauded; but it will not last long; those others will outshout them, and presently the anti-war audiences will thin out and lose popularity. Before long you will see this curious thing: the speakers stoned from the platform, and free speech strangled by hordes of furious men who in their secret hearts are still at one with those stoned speakers—as earlier—but do not dare to say so. And now the whole nation—pulpit and all—will take up the war-cry, and shout itself hoarse, and mob any honest man who ventures to open his mouth; and pres-

ently such mouths will cease to open. Next the statesmen will invent cheap lies, putting the blame upon the nation that is attacked, and every man will be glad of those conscience-soothing falsities, and will diligently study them, and refuse to examine any refutations of them; and thus he will by and by convince himself that the war is just, and will thank God for the better sleep he enjoys after this process of grotesque self-deception.¹²