

Richmond, Virginia. Christmas day, 1998.

O. W.)

Dear Brian;

I wanted to write and, thank you for being there today. I rise earlier than my family and; you're usually the first voice of the day. Mondays and Fridays are well, words fail.

My favorite speakers, heck theres a great many English speaking voices from Madison to Lincoln to Olinier and O'Toole. Many of them obviously are ones one has read & heard. One who I got to listen to for my whole time at the Univ. of Va. was Norman Graebner. Son of a mid-west Methodist minister, Professor Graebner could and did keep me spell-bound. He worked my mind's eye in a way few speakers I've ever heard. He taught U.S. Diplomatic History and, told the story of R.M.N's trip to Latin America that was such a disaster. I had spent a long while in the U.S.M.C. such that I was older than most in the class and; been late teens during Watergate such that there was an awful lot of humor in it for me. In fact there were points in the lecture when I was (alone) laughing so hard I had to bite my tongue to control myself. He noticed me (in a room filled w/ 3-400 people) making it somewhat further, well you can imagine . . .

[REDACTED]

This humor to me was from having been around longer. Not from dislike for R.M.N. on the contrary, I am a conservative first and last. It was because Norman Graebner knew and understood what had happened and, more to the point what became of R.M.N.'s thinking as a result of that trip. He learned how to be afraid of large crowds.

If he's still lining Brian, the trip to Charlottesville would be worth hearing any of his lectures. I realize of course that you probably get many such suggestions in your position. This one is mine.

Also, here's many thanks once again for keeping all this on a path that is bewildering at times, amazing at times. It's been a year that had a full dose of every possible emotion.

Personally, I think we will look back on this era as the mopping-up era of the Cold-war and, the final defeat of the notions of Socialism and, Communism. The Liberal depends on (Ready?) the Grievance-animated, hubris-laden, dependency-based, constituency-building model of Gov't-racketeer-ing. That is the real definition of Compulsory Compassion. All the hyphenations are no accident. It occurs to me that they have to rely on a nation divided into groups who are vulnerable to this sort of appeal.

My faith is in Lincoln's words about 'some of the people all of the time' though and, I hope this era will cause Americans to reflect,

[REDACTED]
after they've been through this roller coaster
ride.

I didn't really mean to go on and on. I
don't call because it's difficult and, one winds-
up shooting from the hip (I do anyway).

Bran, here's many thanks for all you've done.
Here's wishing you the happiest healthiest 1999 you
can think-up for yourselves.

Sincerely
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Richmond, Virginia. 23221
[REDACTED]

P.S. Stephen Ambrose — anytime you can
get him. Simon Schama too please?

Thanks again,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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