

September 3, 1993

Walter Mondale, Chairman  
Joint Committee on Organization of Congress  
Washington, D.C.

c/o CSpan 2  
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Dear Mr. Chairman:

I hope this reaches you! It was so good to catch your meeting with the Joint Committee this morning.

At the end of your own talking you made a comment that I thought answered the question which had been raised which you did not think you had the answer to resolve. Your words which provided the very answer, as I saw it, were "...show we are together as Americans."

This month will bring my 79th birthday. I have lived long enough to see many circles come full and be deeply saddened at times. This has been a time of sorrow. Although I retired from earning money at age 73, I had the experience during some of those years of being a newspaper woman. Was given a blue ribbon, cited in Colorado's "Who's Who" in the 1950's, etc., and was called a "natural born newspaper woman. From this one never retires. Thus, I have watched, looked, listened and felt night and day the goings-on involving the campaigns, conventions, the White House, the House and the Senate, the cult of Ross Perot, and other callers-in from the country.

Too often, I have been reminded of the time I lived and worked in the District and smelled the fear that silenced the civilians. Sen. Joe McCarthy was creating that fear by accusing people of being UnAmerican. I thought he revealed more about himself than about those he accused.

These days another Republican Senator has alarmed me. He filled me with apprehension before the Clintons unpacked when I heard Sen. Dole assert, "It will not serve us well to make Clinton look too good." I knew what would ensue. And it did. Carried to such an extreme, his encouragement for partisanship bordered on anarchy.

My Webster's Ninth defines the word "Statesman" as "1. one versed in the principles or art of government; 2. one who exercises political leadership wisely and without narrow partisanship."

2

If it could be logged, you'd find the word "Republican" continually used, it's Party, Party, Party, but Senators and Congressmen (women, too) do not forever put that hat on their heads as "identity" whenever they speak. They talk about issues. I don't have the equipment to log it other than the impressions that come in on my analytical brain's hemispheres.

And unless all elected officials can wear the hat of Americans, per se, they will never cooperate with each other about issues that affect the nation and the world and require political attention and remedy.

I remember when I was a very little girl and first heard the word Republican, I thought it had something to do with the Country Club. My home town was Wellesley, a rich town, yes, but we were frightfully poor and lived where there were shacks and outhouses. I was what I later called, "A Depression Daisy." Many years later found my ancestors were First Families in the major library history books. But I worked split shifts, six hours a day wearing hand-me-down shoes that gave me pain as I scooped ice cream out of deep containers for malts, college ices, etc.

Thanks to FDR and the Unions, the split shift was done away with, minimum hours and pay installed as laws, etc. So I voted the Democratic ticket. I've watched both parties since, having had to support myself all along, and decided each time to vote Democrat on the Federal level.

Nothing to do with my ego, but with my judgment about politicians and what is going on in my nation and the world. I do, however, have a strong personal concern about words and the influence they have on attitudes and behavior.

I do not think the word "Opposition" should be used regarding a Party or that Party will think they MUST OPPOSE. No matter what! I do not think lexicon of the military ~~be~~ <sup>should</sup> allowed in the House or Senate, such as Sen. Dole's threat made "Now the bullets will fly!" His eyes flashing in rhythm of a machine gun. And all the world watching us to learn how to form their own democracies! Politicians are supposed to be CIVILIANS and that means be CIVIL, not militaristic. And civil means to abide with ETHICS. And part of being ethical is to not smear, degrade, speak of another's motives when evidence is clear that person is not so motivated, but the very opposite is true.

Whether it's our race or religion or gender or a vote politically at a time, we should maintain behavior as individuals and some of us work for the Federal Government of the United States of America, wearing the hat, then, of Americans for identity, when so employed and paid. If narrowed down to just Party for identity, opposition to Federal Government appears to be the gripe. Big government spelled with a little "b" vs. State Government becomes the issue. And anarchy results in D.C.

3.

It's gilding the lily by calling it "Gridlock." That word refers to an automobile driven by some INDIVIDUAL who errs and moves on the red light at a busy crossstreet, generally happening in Cities, at rush hours.

Nothing premeditated about it, nor is it the result of a GROUP OF PEOPLE deciding to stop business as usual to win a battle over another group of people.

Stalemate, defeat a new President who is not an Ivory Tower thinker, but a man who sets up large conferences of people known for expertise in various fields to brainstorm a problem, and he uses his two eyes, two ears and one mouth as Nature intended we should. Often is he praised for being a good listener. And I see him as a man who can walk with kings and keep the common touch, same as Al Gore, same as you. Mr. Chairman.

I do think some system should be developed to uniform expenses for campaigning for office to prevent people feeling indebted to their "constituency" in the way needing money from them.

I think we should have a fund for airtime, etc., decreed by the government, obtaining such from taxes, yes, but giving tax credits to media for such cooperation. Systems need to be set up to prevent the BUYING OF VOTES.

I never complained about taxes, never was with people complaining about taxes, and am convinced only the very rich complain about taxes and find ways to manipulate umbrellas etc. all legal.

A social conscience has nothing to do with one's pocketbook. It has to do with someone's heart and head and sense of identifying with more and more people the longer one grows and expands one's human relationships.

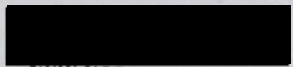
When I was only a young female, I became involved with The World Federalists on having been in New York City a few years then.

A long time ago ... and this is a long letter. But I have listened and looked and felt the emotions of many people in my one-room studio in a residence for Senior Citizens.

So glad you're aboard to help Clinton/Gore and the rest of us citizens! You look GREAT and sound wonderful.

Respectfully

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