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Oct. 9, 1990

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Dear Mr. Lamb,

yes, I'm another C-Span junky, and have been ever since I moved about a year ago, and found it on my cable hook up. I don't have a phone, and now won't allow myself to get one because my bill would be exorbitant, and I'd be one of the worst crashers of your 30 day policy.

I'm writing because I hear so many call about defense cutting, and cost overruns in the defense budget.

Since I have a brother that just recently got his retirement from having spent his whole career life in the defense and space business, dating from the Eisenhower administration; I thought I could at least explain what he has revealed so far.

Our great government in their so-called infinite wisdom, and for so-called security purposes, set up the industry in the first place by partitioning bits and pieces of it around the country with major parts like Mc Donnell Douglas, Martin Marietta, Northrup, Hughes Aircraft, Rocketdyne, and others as well known to the public, and as major assemblers and contract bidders. But there are thousands of bits and pieces manufacturers scattered around the nation in practically every state in the union. The so-called strategy of this was to be able to keep any spies from ever being able to sabotage our whole defense capability.



Well, you can imagine every Governor in the land lined up at the hog-tough and grabbed as many of these mom and pop piece jobbers for their states as they could. And Reagan was without a doubt the worst, and got a lions share—hence so much of it in California, and with Nixon prior to him as President the state is loaded. Naturally, that's where my brother also lives.

However, other states got their shares too, and believe me they run the length and breadth of the land. Look at Georgia, Nunn's home state, and Texas with first Johnson, Tower, and now Bush get too, and Bentsen's hands on the purse strings.

Well, if you don't think this causes an economic problem for all these pork barrelers on how to close up shop without committing political hari-kari you have another think coming. Listen to Cheney!

As for the \$600 toilet seats, \$9000 wrenches, \$6000 coffee pots and the like I think I can explain that too. My brother, as a mechanical engineer, has had not only the job of designing; but also procuring for some of these so called modern miracles of ours; and has worked for more than one of these afore mentioned contractors. In fact he was offered the chance to get in on the ground floor of Martin-Marietta in Denver, and turned it down after looking into what a bunch of fleazeballs he'd be hooking up with. Thank God!



All the same with all these piece-meal jobs scattered around the country you can imagine it involves a lot of travel in order to assemble all the parts it takes to assemble the finished products. And boy does that help the airline business! My brother must have taken thousands of them over the period of time he worked with it.

The only trouble with that is once you start going on those trips to pick up parts (and believe me they have to be precise and according to specs) it starts showing up to outsiders. And anyone up to hanky-panky, or helping with it, starts watching your travels, and your travel bags. I can't tell you the number of bags, and full of clothes, that my brother has lost, never to show up again, in his years of traveling. Now how do you account for that on a defense contract, and yet should the replacement fall on the employee? Well, maybe you jack up the cost of a wrench, or a coffee pot or whatever, and charge it off on a cost overrun. My brother knows that's how some of his replacements were paid for, and believe me he alone was far from the only one (even in his own company) that was doing this sort of traveling.

I'd just like to know how many of those blank lines with price notations there were in those ledgers the book author examined, and how many of them my brother might account for.



And then, of course, there are perks too. When the plane my brother helped to design on his first major project rolled off the line while still at Lockheed, my husband, and a brother-in-law got the most beautiful solid gold model tie tacks of it that you ever saw. Yes, it was his and 2 of his cohorts that pioneered the needle-nose projection you see on most of the fast planes today. And the other 2 guys got the tie-tacks for the male members of their families too.

So since you get so much of this sort of thing to listen to, and I can't call it just thought you might be interested to know at least some of it to comment on.

These are drawbacks, as well, in these jobs. For instance families can never know details of where these workers are when on trips. It's just pack me a bag for 3 days, or 5 days, or 2 weeks, and I'll see you when I get back. Therefore when our mother died no one knew how to let him know, and since his wife only knew 2 days earlier she'd packed a bag for 10 days we couldn't hold the funeral that long. Fifteen years later we found out he was at Huntsville, Ala. helping to set up our first successful Red Stone rocket firing after all its failures. His perfectionist crew at Rocketdyne had worked out the bugs in it. Some way to live, eh? Not for me!

Sincerely

