

MR. BRIAN LAMB, C-SPAN
400 N. CAPITOL ST NW #650
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

JULY 30, '93

DEAR SIR,

CAUGHT PART OF 'JOURNALIST'S ROUNDTABLE' THIS A.M., & HEARD
ANDREA MITCHELL AND OTHERS TRYING TO EXPLAIN TO A CALLER THE TERM 'VETTING',
AND DECIDING IT WAS BORROWED FROM BRITS.

COURSE, YN FOLKS ARE CITY PEOPLE AND USED TO BRITS, CANADIANS, AND
OTHER COMMONWEALTH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS BUSINESS, AND THE BRITS DO USE THE
TERM "VETTING" TOO, BUT HERE IT IS IN MY GOOD OLD DICTIONARY FOR YOU.

MOST COUNTRY PEOPLE HERE IN THE U.S. ANYWHERE COULD TELL
YN 'AFORE YN BUY A CRITTER YN GIVE IT A GOOD VETTING, OR GOING OVER,
LOOKING FOR DEFECTS, DISEASE, PROBLEMS OF ANY SORT. SOME FOLKS HAVE IT
DONE BY A VET, MOST TRUST COMMON SENSE - "HORSE SENSE" - AND THEIR OWN
JUDGEMENT. IT'S NO SURPRISE "VETTING" IS USED TO DESCRIBE THE REVIEW PROCESS
FOR PEOPLE THAT MIGHT BE APPOINTED, GOVERNMENTS GENERALLY TREAT PEOPLE LIKE
SO MUCH MEAT ANYWAY. IT'S ALSO NO SURPRISE NEWS PEOPLE DOWN THERE SPEND
MORE TIME AROUND BRITS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS THAN THEY DO NON-DC AMERICANS.

CAN'T SAY I'D GO TO D.C. FOR DINNER WITH SALLY QUINN & COMPANY, BUT
GIVE A HOLLER IF YN'RE TALKING TO SOMEONE WANTS TO COME TO DINNER HERE -
THE FOOD AIN'T FANCY, BUT THE CONVERSATION WILL SHORTEN 'EM UP QUICK.

I ENJOY YOUR SHOW, AND YN DO YOUR JOB WELL, SIR. THANK YOU.

SINCERELY,

canonical hours. *b*) the service for this hour. *c*) a public ceremony in which part of this service is chanted on Sundays or holy days. Also **Vesper**.
vesper sparrow, an American sparrow with white markings on its outer tail feathers: so called from its practice of singing in the evening.
ves-per-til-i-o-nid (ves'pér-til'i-ô-nid), *adj.* vesper-tilionine. *n.* a vesper-tilionine bat.
ves-per-til-i-o-nine (ves'pér-til'i-ô-nin'), *adj.* [*L. vesper-tilio, vesper-tilionis*, a bat (*< vesper*, evening); + *-ine*], designating or of the family of long-tailed bats found throughout the Temperate Zones.
ves-per-ti-nal (ves'pér-ti-n'l), *adj.* vesper-tine.
ves-per-tine (ves'pér-tin, ves'pér-tin'), *adj.* [*L. vesper-tinus < vesper*; see **VESPER**], 1. of evening. 2. appearing or occurring in the evening. 3. in *botany*, opening or blossoming in the evening. 4. in *zoology*, becoming active or flying in the early evening.
ves-pi-ary (ves'pi-er'i), *n.* [*pl. VESPIARIES (-iz)*], [*< L. vespa*, a wasp, after Eng. *apiary*], 1. a nest of any of the social wasps, made of paperlike material and hung, as from a tree, or buried underground. 2. the colony in the nest.
ves-pid (ves'pid), *n.* [*< Mod. L. Vespidæ*, name of the family *< L. vespa*, a wasp], any of a world-wide group of social wasps, as the hornet and yellow jacket, which live in colonies consisting of a queen, males, and workers. *adj.* of these wasps.
ves-pine (ves'pin, ves'pin), *adj.* [*< L. vespa*, a wasp; + *-ine*], of or like a wasp.
Ves-puc-ci, A-me-ri-go (â'me-rê'gô, ves-pûot'chê), (*L.* name *Americus Vesputius*), 1451-1512; Italian navigator after whom America is named.
ves-sel (ves'tl), *n.* [*ME. & OFr. L. vasellum*, dim. of *vas*, a vessel], 1. a utensil for holding something, as a vase, bowl, pitcher, kettle, etc. 2. [Chiefly Biblical], a person thought of as being the receiver or repository of some spirit, influence, etc.: as, a vessel of wrath. 3. a craft for traveling on water; ship or boat, especially one larger than a rowboat. 4. an airship. 5. in *anatomy* & *zoology*, a tube or duct containing or circulating a body fluid: as, a blood vessel. 6. in *botany*, a tube or canal serving to conduct water. Abbreviated **ves**.
vest (vest), *n.* [*Fr. & It. veste; L. vestis*, a garment, vesture], 1. a short, tight-fitting, sleeveless garment worn under a suit coat by men; waistcoat. 2. an undershirt, or undershirt. 3. an insert or trimming worn under the bodice by women, simulating the front of a man's vest. 4. [Archaic], robe; garment; clothing. 5. [Obs.], a long, cassocklike garment worn by men in the time of Charles II. *v.t.* 1. to clothe; dress, as in church vestments. 2. to place (authority, power, property rights, etc.) in the control of a person or group (with *in*). 3. to put (a person) in possession or control of, as power or authority; invest (*with* something). *v.i.* 1. to put on garments or vestments; clothe oneself. 2. to pass to a person; become fixed upon or vested in a person, as property (with *in*).
Ves-ta (ves'ta), *n.* [*L.*], 1. in *Roman mythology*, the goddess of the hearth and the hearth fire, identified with the Greek Hestia: she was worshipped in a temple in which a sacred fire on the altar was tended by the vestal virgins. 2. [*v.-i*], originally, a short wax friction match. *b*) later, a short wooden match.
ves-tal (ves'tl), *adj.* 1. of or sacred to Vesta. 2. of the vestal virgins; hence, 3. chaste; pure. *n.* 1. a vestal virgin. 2. a chaste woman; virgin. 3. a nun.
vestal virgin, in ancient Rome, any of six virgins, priestesses of Vesta, who, sworn to remain chaste, tended the sacred fire in her temple.
vest-ed (ves'tid), *adj.* [*pp. of vest*], 1. clothed; robed, especially in church vestments. 2. in *law*, fixed; settled; absolute; not contingent upon anything; as, a vested interest.
vest-ee (ves'tê), *n.* [*dim. of vest*], a vest (sense 3).
ves-ti-ary (ves'ti-er'i), *adj.* [*ME. vestiare; OFr. vestiaire; ML. vestiarius*; see **VESTRY**], of clothes or vestments. [*Obs.*], a vestry or cloakroom.
ves-ti-bu-lar (ves'tib'yoo-lêr), *adj.* of, like, or having the nature of, a vestibule.
ves-ti-bule (ves'ta-bül), *n.* [*L. vestibulum*, entrance hall], 1. a small entrance hall or room, either to a building or to a room within a building. 2. the enclosed passage between passenger cars of a train, having doors for entrance or exit. 3. in *anatomy* & *zoology*, any cavity or space serving as an entrance to another cavity or space: as, the vestibule of the inner ear leading into the cochlea. *v.t.* [*VESTIBULED (-bûld')*, *VESTIBULING*], to furnish with a vestibule.
ves-tige (ves'tij), *n.* [*Fr. L. vestigium*, a footprint]

ves-tig-i-um (ves'tij-i-um), *n.* [*pl. VESTIGIA (-ô)*], in *biology*, a vestige; vestigial organ or part.
vest-ing (ves'tin), *n.* cloth for vests; especially, a rich, heavy fabric used in vests for evening dress.
vest-ment (vest'ment), *n.* [*ME. vestiment; OFr. vestement; L. vestimentum < vestire*, to clothe], 1. a garment; robe; gown; especially, an official robe or gown. 2. in *ecclesiastical usage*, any of the garments worn by officiants and their assistants during certain services and rites.
vest-pock-et (vest'pok'it), *adj.* 1. made to fit into a vest pocket; hence, 2. relatively small: as, a vest-pocket edition of a book.
ves-try (ves'tri), *n.* [*pl. VESTRIES (-triz)*], [*ME. vestrie; OFr. vestiaire; ML. vestiarius*, a wardrobe *< L. vestis*, a garment], 1. a room in a church, where the clergy put on their vestments and the sacred vessels are kept; sacristy. 2. a room in a church or church building where prayer meetings, Sunday Schools, etc., are held. 3. in the *Anglican & Episcopal churches*, a group of church members who manage the temporal affairs of the church. 4. in the *Anglican Church*, a) a meeting of such a group or of the parishioners in general. *b*) the place where this is held.
ves-try-man (ves'tri-män), *n.* [*pl. VESTRYMEN (-mën)*], a member of a vestry.
ves-ture (ves'tür), *n.* [*ME. & OFr. L. vestitura < L. vestire*, to clothe], 1. [Rare or Archaic], clothing; garments; apparel. 2. [Rare or Archaic], a covering; wrapper. 3. in *law*, everything growing on land except trees, as grass or grain. *v.t.* [*VESTURED (-chêrd)*, *VESTURING*], [Rare or Archaic], to cover; clothe; dress.
Ves-u-vi-an (va-sûo-vi-an, va-sû-vi-an), *adj.* of or like Mount Vesuvius; volcanic. *n.* [*v.-i*], 1. vesuvianite. 2. an early type of match for lighting cigars, etc.; fusee.
ves-u-vi-an-ite (va-sûo-vi-an-it', va-sû-vi-an-it'), *n.* [*< L. Vesuvius*; + *-an* + *-ite*], a glassy mineral, brown to green in color, a basic silicate of calcium and aluminum, first found at Mt. Vesuvius; idocrase.
Ves-u-vi-us (va-sûo-vi-as, va-sû-vi-as), *n.* an active volcano near Naples, Italy: height, 3,858 ft.; severe eruptions occurred in 79 A.D. (destroying Pompeii) and in 1906.
vet (vet), *n.* [*Colloq.*], a veterinarian. *v.t.* [*VETTED (-id)*, *VETTING*], [*Colloq.*], to examine or treat as a veterinarian does. *v.i.* [*Colloq.*], to be a veterinarian.
vet (vet), *n.* [*Colloq.*], a veteran.
vet. 1. veteran. 2. veterinarian. 3. veterinary.
vetch (vech), *n.* [*ME. fèche, vech; OFr. vech; Fr. vesche*], [*L. vicia*, vetch], any of a number of related, short, leafy, climbing or trailing plants of the pea family, grown chiefly for fodder and as a soil restorer.
vetch-ling (vech'lin), *n.* [*vetch* + *-ling*], any of a group of small plants of the pea family.
vet-er-an (vet'êr-on, vet'rôn), *adj.* [*L. veteranus < vetus*, *veteris*, old], 1. old and experienced; long practiced, especially in war or military service. 2. of a veteran or veterans. *n.* 1. a person of long experience in some service or position, especially in military service. 2. a person who has served in the armed forces of a country, especially in time of war. Abbreviated **vet**.
Veterans' Administration, a Federal agency, created in 1930, in which all agencies concerned with veterans' affairs were consolidated for administering all laws dealing with relief or benefits for veterans of the army, navy, etc.; abbreviated **V.A.**, **VA** (no period).
Veterans' Day, see **Armistice Day**.
Veterans of Foreign Wars, an organization of United States veterans founded in 1899; abbreviated **V.F.W.**, **VFW** (no period).
vet-er-i-nar-i-an (vet'êr-a-nâr'i-an, vet'râ-nâr'i-an), *n.* [*< L. veterinarius*], a person who practices veterinary medicine or surgery; abbreviated **vet**.
vet-er-i-nar-y (vet'êr-a-ner'i, vet'râ-ner'i), *adj.* [*L. veterinarius*, of beasts of burden *< veterina*, beasts of burden; as if *< vetus*, *veteris*, old, in the sense "beasts of a certain age"], designating or of the branch of medicine dealing with the investigation, treatment, and prevention of diseases in animals, especially domestic animals. *n.* [*pl. VETERINARIES (-iz)*], a veterinarian. Abbreviated **vet.**, **veter**.
vet-iv-er (vet'iv-êr), *n.* [*Fr. vétiver < Tamil vetivir*, lit., root that is dug up *< vēr*, root], 1. an East Indian grass whose roots yield a fragrant oil used in perfumes. 2. its fibrous roots, also used for making screens, mats, etc.
ve-to (vê'tô), *n.* [*pl. VETOES (-tôz)*], [*L. I forbid < vetare*, to forbid], 1. an order prohibiting some proposed or intended act; prohibition, especially by a person in authority. 2. the power to prevent action

for rejecting a bill; also veto message. *v.t.* [*VETOED (-tôd)*, *VETOING*], 1. to prevent (a bill) from becoming law by a veto. 2. to forbid; prohibit; refuse consent to.
Vet-ter, Lake (vet'êr), Lake Vätter.
vex (vex), *v.t.* [*ME. vexen; OFr. vexer*, to vex, torment; *L. vexare*, to shake, agitate *< vehere*, to carry], 1. to make trouble for; disturb; annoy; irritate, especially in little things. 2. [Rare], to afflict (a person): said of disease. 3. to trouble seriously; torment. 4. to discuss at length; bring up again and again for discussion; as, a vexed point. 5. [Obs.], to shake up; toss about; agitate. —*SYN.* see **annoy**.
vex-a-tion (vek-sâ'shan), *n.* [*ME. vexacioun; OFr. L. vexatio*], 1. a vexing or being vexed. 2. something that vexes; cause of annoyance or distress.
vex-a-tious (vek-sâ'shâs), *adj.* 1. causing vexation; annoying. 2. characterized by vexation; disturbed. 3. in *law*, instituted without real grounds, chiefly to cause annoyance to the defendant: said of legal actions.
vexed (vekst), *adj.* [*pp. of vex*], 1. troubled; annoyed; irritated; disturbed. 2. much debated or discussed; brought up again and again: as, a vexed question.
vex-ed-ly (vek'sid-li), *adv.* with vexation; in a vexed manner.
vex-il (vek'sil), *n.* a vexillum (sense 2).
vex-il-lar (vek'sa-lêr), *adj.* vexillary.
vex-il-lar-y (vek'sa-lêr'i), *adj.* [*L. vexillarius < vexillum*; see **VEXILLUM**], 1. of an ensign or standard. 2. in *botany*, of a vexillum. *n.* in ancient Rome, 1. any of a class of veteran soldiers serving under a special standard. 2. a standard-bearer.
vex-il-late (vek'sa-lit, vek'sa-lât'), *adj.* having a vexillum or vexilla.
vex-il-lum (vek-sil'um), *n.* [*pl. VEXILLA (-ô)*], [*L.*], a standard, flag, dim. *< base of velum*; see **VEIL**], 1. in ancient Rome, a) a square flag, or standard, carried by troops. *b*) a company of soldiers serving under one standard. 2. in *botany*, the large, erect upper petal of a flower of the pea family. 3. in *zoology*, the web or vane of a feather.
V.F.W., **VFW**, Veterans of Foreign Wars.
V.G., Vicar General.
VHF, very high frequency.
Vi, in *chemistry*, virginium.
V.I., Virgin Islands.
v.i., 1. intransitive verb. 2. *vide infra*, [*L.*], see below.
via (vi'o; occas. vî'o), *prep.* [*L.*, abl. sing. of *via*, a way], by way of; passing through: as, to Baltimore via Washington.
via-bil-ity (vi'o-bil'i-ti), *n.* [*Fr. viabilité*], the state or quality of being viable.
via-ble (vi'o-b'l), *adj.* [*Fr.*], likely to live *< vie* (*L. vita*, life), able to live; specifically, a) at that stage of development that will permit it to live and develop under normal conditions, outside of the uterus: said of a fetus or newborn, especially premature, infant. *b*) able to take root and grow: as, viable seeds.
via-duct (vi'o-duk't'), *n.* [after *aqueduct*] *< L. via*, a way], 1. a long bridge consisting of a series of short concrete or masonry spans supported on piers or towers, usually to carry a road or railroad over a valley, gorge, etc. 2. a similar structure of steel girders and towers.
vial (vi'al), *n.* [*ME. & OFr. vial; L. phiala*, saucer *< Gr. phiale*, shallow cup; cf. **PHIAL**], a small vessel or bottle, usually of glass, for containing medicines or other liquids; phial. *v.t.* [*VIALED or VIALLED (-ald)*, *VIALING or VIALLING*], to put or keep in or as in a vial.
vi-a-me-di-a (vi'o mē'di-ô), [*L.*], a middle way; course between two extremes.
vi-and (vi'and), *n.* [*ME. vyaunde; OFr. viande; LL. vivanda*, for *vivenda*, neut. pl. gerundive of *vivere*, to live], 1. an article of food. 2. pl. food; victuals; especially, choice dishes.
vi-at-ic (vi-at'ik), *adj.* [*L. viaticus*, of a way or road *< via*, a way], of a road, a journey, or travel.
vi-at-ic-al (vi-at'ik'l), *adj.* viatic.
vi-at-i-cum (vi-at'ik-kum), *n.* [*pl. VIATICA (-kô)*, *VIATICUMS (-kômz)*], [*L.*], provision for a journey *< viaticus*; see **VIATIC**], 1. in ancient Rome, money or supplies provided as traveling expenses to an officer on an official mission; hence, 2. money or supplies for any journey. 3. the Eucharist as given to a dying person or to one in danger of death.
vi-a-tor (vi-â'tôr), *n.* [*pl. VIATORS (vi-â'tôrz)*], [*L. < via*, to travel

vi-brac-u-lum (vi-brak'(-ô)), [*Mod. L., dim. < in zoology*, any of the free-like defensive organs of a

vi-bran-cy (vi'brân-si), *n.* vibrant; resonance.

vibrant (vi'brant), *adj.* vibrate, shake], 1. quivering in such a way as to produce vibration; resonant; the impression of much electric current.

vibrant streets. 4. a vigorous woman. 5. in *phonetics*, vibrating.

vi-bra-phone (vi'bro-fôn), musical instrument resembling electrically operated valve, produce a gentle vibrato.

vi-brate (vi'brât), *v.t.* [*< L. vibratus*, pp. of *vibrare*], to give off (light or sound) to and-fro motion; cause back and forth; oscillate, rapidly back and forth; 3. to resound; said of a stirred; thrill; as, the vibrato, as between two

vi-bra-tile (vi'brâ-til, vi't), see **VIBRATE**, 1. of, character of, vibration. 2. vibrated. 3. having a vibration of being vibratile.

vi-bra-tion (vi-brâ'shon), *n.* a) motion back and forth, b) rapid rhythmic motion.

2. vacillation; wavering; opinions. 3. a stirring; 4. in *physics*, a) rapid rhythm across a position of equilibrium or an elastic solid which is disturbed, as in transmitting motion of a string, etc. in complete vibrating motion.

vi-bra-tion-al (vi-brâ'shon-ol), nature of, vibration.

vi-bra-tive (vi'brâ-tiv), *adj.* **vi-bra-to** (vi-brâ'tô), *It.* vibrate; see **VIBRATE**], in maintained by rapidly alternating slightly perceptible variations in singing, sometimes inter-

vi-bra-tor (vi'brâ-tôr), *n.* causes vibration; specifies electric bell. *b*) an electrical rubber head or pad, used tricity, an oscillator.

vi-bra-to-ry (vi'brâ-tôr'i), having the nature of, or causing vibration. 3. vibrant, as the voice.

vib-ri-o (vi'ri-ô), *n.* [*Mod. vibrate*], any of a group of negative bacteria shaped like S: one species is the causative agent of cholera.

vibri-old (vib'ri-oid'), *adj.* vibrio. *n.* a vibrioid body.

vibrioid body, in *botany*, any like bodies in the cells of some plants.

vi-bris-sa (vi-bris'sô), *n.* [*pl. vi-bris-sae*], in *botany*, any of the stiff hairs growing on certain animals and often as a cat's whiskers. 2. any growing near the mouth of a fish, as the hippocharis.

vi-bro-scope (vi'bro-skôp'), an instrument for observing vibrations.

vi-bur-num (vi-bûr-nam), *n.* 1. any of a large group of shrubby plants, with green, or red berries. 2. the plant, used in medicine.

Vic-, 1. Vicar. 2. Vicarage.

vic-ar (vik'êr), *n.* [*ME. vicarius < vicis*, a change, who acts in place of another, the Anglican Church, etc.