

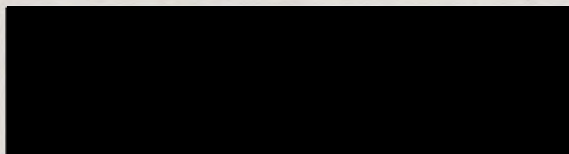
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JUL 23 AMSD

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

AFTER WATCHING THE JOURNALISTS ROUNDTABLE
TAPED ON THE 14TH OF JUNE AND REBROADCAST
THE 15TH AND 16TH, I DECIDED I SHOULD WRITE
TO ASK YOU ON YOUR MANDATE IS IN SO FAR
AS THE PERCENTAGE OF YOUR BROADCAST TIME
YOU DEVOTE TO PROGRAMMING CENTERING ON
THE WHITE HOUSE, CONGRESS AND REPORTERS
THAT PRIMARILY COVER THOSE TWO BEATS, AND
WHAT PERCENTAGE IS DEVOTED TO EVERYTHING
ELSE IN THE WORLD? SOME OF THE PEOPLE
THAT CALLED INTO THIS ROUNDTABLE MADE IT
CLEAR TO ME HOW UNINFORMED REPORTERS WHO
COVER THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS HAVE OF

The rest of the world outside the Northeast corridor. That the President is the primary person who sets the agenda AND the primary elements of those high on the agenda to be widely discussed, such as his emphasis on quotas during the discussions of the Civil Rights Bills of 1990 and 1991.

Over the years, I have enjoyed the opportunity to view the business and ceremonial activities at the White House and Congress in a long form unavailable elsewhere. It's much more convenient and entertaining than reading the Congressional Record at the public library, which would include written statements that were not actually spoken in the chambers of Congress, from letters from the folks back home, statistics, predictions, comments, questions, praise and rebuke, and thanks to each and every player and coach of every amateur and professional sports team who wins

a major championship.

CHANCES ARE, YOUR FUNDING SOURCE, THE CABLE TELEVISION INDUSTRY has given you A MANDATE to COVER THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS AS MUCH AS YOU DO, AND IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE THAT WATCH YOUR NETWORK LIKE THAT EMPHASIS. I WOULD MERELY LIKE TO SAY THAT BECAUSE OF THIS EMPHASIS, IT PERPETUATES THE IDEA THAT LOCAL PEOPLE ARE POWERLESS TO DO MUCH TO SHAPE THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO SUIT THEM BECAUSE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT has its FINGER IN SO MANY PIES, MANDATING PROGRAMS AND EITHER NOT PROVIDING ADEQUATE FUNDS TO COVER THE ADDITIONAL COSTS TO IMPLIMENT THESE PROGRAMS, OR THAT IT HAS MADE LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT OVERLY DEPENDENT ON FEDERAL FUNDS TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THE STYLE IN WHICH THEY HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED.

SECONDARILY, I BELIEVE THAT WHEN YOU COVER THE CONVENTIONS OF SUCH GROUPS THAT SERVE CERTAIN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, SUCH AS BLACK MALES, HISPANICS, AMERICAN COMMUNISTS AND AMERICAN INDIANS, YOU PROVIDE A MEANS FOR THESE GROUPS, WHOSE MEMBERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE POOR, NOT WELL EDUCATED, NOT WELL ORGANIZED POLITICALLY, NOT ABLE TO HIRE LARGE, WELL-PAID STAFFS OF LOBBYISTS, AND LIKELY TO HAVE EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT DISCRIMINATION IN HIRING, PROMOTION AND HOUSING IN THE RECENT PAST, TO BETTER HELP THEMSELVES APART FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS TO BECOME MORE POLITICALLY ACTIVE AND AWARE AS GROUPS. UNLIKE THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS, WHO HAVE MANY WAYS OF COMMUNICATING AND POLITICALLY ORGANIZING

its members, AND has The money to hire Large staffs of well-paid LOBBYISTS, these other groups have Few tools for helping themselves ORGANIZE AND educate AND help correct The social problems That have developed over The years because of ABUSE OR neglect BY The Federal Government IN The past.

AND Thirdly, I would recommend That you AVOID The temptation to cheerlead for The Administration, AND when you have on journalists roundtable people FROM such mainstream publications such as Time, The Boston GLOBE AND The News services such as Copley, AP, AND Scripps - HOWARD, That's what it appears to some people you ARE DOING, irregardless OF The personal opinions OF The individuals on your PANEL, AND The fact

that they mostly are White House AND
Congressional correspondents from the
Northeast corridor. You lose the claim
that you are objective AND non-partisan
if you do not have a similar program
that is regularly scheduled to journalists
roundtable, with journalists from
outside the Northeast corridor, foreign
journalists, or a pair of similar
regularly scheduled programs; one
with people who identify themselves
as conservatives, AND one with self-
identified liberals, such as the
Balancing act of Washington Week in
Review on PBS does by also carrying
the McLaughlin Group, to an extent.

I might also recommend that you
do a foreign trip to Mexico like you
did with Germany AND Japan last

YEAR, SINCE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS WORKING WITH FAST-TRACK AUTHORITY FOR A FREE-TRADE AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO.

I AM SURE YOU WOULD AGREE THAT FEW AMERICANS UNDERSTAND WHETHER THIS WOULD JUST ADJUST TARIFFS AND QUOTAS FOR TRADE GOODS, ADJUSTING THE TRADE SURPLUS AND DEFICIT STATUS BETWEEN US AND THEM, LIKE WE DO WITH COMMUNIST CHINA, OR WHETHER IT WOULD DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE QUESTIONS OF MAKING THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO MORE DEMOCRATIC, FORCE CHANGES IN BOTH COUNTRIES' IMMIGRATION POLICIES, AND FORCE IMPROVEMENTS IN WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR MEXICAN WORKERS, SO THERE WOULD BE LESS NOT MORE INCENTIVES FOR AMERICAN AND MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS TO CLOSE UP HERE AND MOVE TO MEXICO. I ALSO MUST SAY I ENJOY BOOKNOTES AND THE COVERAGE OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT, THE VISITS

TO GERMANY, JAPAN AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
LAST YEAR, THE VISITS TO TIME MAGAZINE AND
NPR'S ALL THINGS CONSIDERED STATE, ^{AND} WHEN
YOU Aired SEVERAL RADIO CALL-IN SHOWS ALL
OVER THE COUNTRY INCLUDING WGCI-CHICAGO
WITH CLIFF KELLEY, AND WOL RADIO IN
WASHINGTON DC HOSTED BY KATHY HUGHES,
KIRO RADIO IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
HOSTED BY JIM FRENCH AND SEVERAL OTHERS
LATE MAY EARLY JUNE OF 1990. KEEP UP THE
GOOD WORK ON THESE KIND OF SHOWS!

