

Falmouth, Maine 04105

January 7, 1997

Dear Mr. Lamb,

Some weeks ago on your Sunday night Booknotes program, you interviewed the author, whose name I cannot recall, of a brutal book on the late Father Laughlin.

The remarks of the author were unremittably critical of this learned Catholic priest and encountered not a scintilla of rebuttal from you. You seemed to come to the program with absolutely no prior knowledge of the times under discussion. O.B.K.

It almost appeared that the author, a virtual unknown, had been hired for the exclusive purpose of attacking and destroying the character and cause of this Catholic clergyman. Had such a book been authored vilifying a black minister or Jewish rabbi, your reaction would have been swift and uncompromising. Actually, such an author would never have enjoyed the prestige of a Booknotes appearance.

I would be interesting to learn
how your Badnotes authors are
chosen, by whom, and what prior
research is done to provide you with
meaningful questions.

You might want to consider an
occasional Badnote when the
author's unfettered complete hour is
offset by a rebuttal from qualified
sources.

Thank you for bringing us
Badnotes and for your instincts for
fair play that will allow these
thoughts to be given fair consideration.
Cordially,