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Dear Mr Lamb,

We seem to be seeing a little more of C-SPAN, although it is only about one hour a day and sometimes not even that, but it is better than nothing and C-SPAN cannot be described as nothing, if it were I would'nt be writing and your interviewing is excellent in that you penetrate the guest with questions which are pertinent to the subject, unlike some of the phone calls. Now with regard to telephone calls from Europe, have you any idea as to the cost of calling from Germany ? which I'm quite sure is fairly representative of Europe in general, on several occassions I've hung up because the call has cost \$10 or more before I've had chance to even ask a question or make a comment; I would suggest that calls from Europe, the number is recorded and the caller phoned back; that is if you want calls and comment from Europe? I think that the Europeans can offer an insite, because we are not in the American forest so we tend to see more of the trees and in a different perspective.

Would

you please ask the following questions on my behalf, that is if you think that they are worth asking?

(1) The cost of "Desert shield", the President is running around Europe with his begging bowl because the cost is about 1 billion a month????

In view of the S&L fiasco and the US budgetary nightmare and the incompetence of Congress (not my view but American) how can the American expect the Europeans to believe American costing? the US simply has no credibility ie financial credibility here in Europe. The forces have to be paid wherever they are located and for \$1 billion dollars a month I could send them all first class in the Concord each month to the Gulf.

(2) Why does'nt the Congress return all US forces here in Europe to the US?

Certainly Europe is exceedingly grateful for the US forces for the last 40 years or so but it is time now to return and save money which the US certainly does'nt have and the saving would correct the deficit, in a very short time, and save a great deal of pain. The Europeans would say a very fond farewell to the US forces and they would always be welcome to return if they so desired.

(3) I listened to Mr Gephardt imploring the House to pass the finance bill and he said if I remeber correctly " We are not a parliamentary democracy,

we don't have that luxury", for many years that has been exactly my view but one must ask the question should not the US avail itself of that luxury, at least the Congress could make a decision within a few days, at present the Congress has agonised over the Budget since the beginning of the year and it still is'nt settled, one wonders if it will ever be? The constitution was written in a very different world which cannot be compared to that of today's, the British parliament has evolved over the centuries so as to adjust to the changing values, the American constitution is revered by America on the one hand and constantly being questioned in the courts on the other. I once read the statistic, that the US has four times the number of lawyers per head of population than any other country in the world, and frankly I believe it. So my question is :- ~~Is~~ Is the American form of Government rational? functional? decisive? I think not. In conclusion I think GBS was very prophetic in the "Apple Cart"! I'll leave you to look it up? What would improve the confusion a great deal, is that once a week the President should be subject to questioning from the Congress just as the British question the PM, certainly the number of journalists in Washington would be reduced? What you have to understand is, that the US is losing world credibility, as its economy declines and its Government vacillates and quite frankly the US begins to look absurd from the European continent.

One last observation, the Journalists use a perfect English, sometimes, no more often than not, C-SPAN programmes are in progress when the Europeans are finally able to see them so we are suddenly in the middle of an interview and it is perfectly obvious from the language and the vocabulary that a journalist, as opposed to a politician, is being interviewed, indeed on one such occasion the vocabulary ^{was} ~~was~~ such that I said at the time Mr you were educated in GB, subsequently you defined the journalist's background which was Oxford.

I enjoy your personality very much because you don't stress every sentence thank heaven; to listen to CNN is quite painful also the VOA and other NBC news programmes, so it is rather pleasant to listen to someone who has a very pleasant voice and doesn't try to declaim.

Apologies for all mistakes, typing is not my forte, one day I'll get a WP.

Finally thank you for a delightfully informing programme which I thoroughly enjoy. Best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely

