

Sept 28, 1993

Dear Mr Lamb:

I had to write you to let you know how much I enjoyed your program of 9/27/93 with Messrs. Bruden & Matthews.

They not only answered the questions, but did so with much knowledge. I also appreciate the fact that neither of them stammered or beat around the bush.

I also enjoyed the comments and quotes of Jim Bunning, which you read out of one of your newspapers. Is there any chance Rep. Bunning will be invited to a near future program?

I certainly hope so! He
tells it like it really
is.

I've enclosed a couple
of articles from the Detroit
News you might be interested
in.

Thanks for listening.

See

Farmington, MI 48336

America's Hill-Billy presidency

That radical, get-America-movin'-again, exam-cramming first 100 days of the Clinton administration are almost over. And you ain't seen nothing yet! No kidding.

We ain't seen nothing at all.

The New Kids on the Block haven't accomplished the downfall of the Republic. In fact, they haven't accomplished anything, outside of rescinding a few executive orders on abortion and approving a porky, stand-pat budget outline.

But it's not a total wash. Bill Clinton has indeed made history. He has managed to do something no chief executive has ever done: broken a promise a day!

Not even that famous fudger,

Richard M. Nixon, can equal the dizzying pace with which Clinton has forgotten, dropped, quietly abandoned, modified, qualified or just plain broken his campaign promises. The president hit the ground running well in advance of taking office. Before even coming to Washington, he changed his mind on Haitian refugees and ethics in government.

But after his swearing-in, Clinton energetically spun off commitments at a dizzying rate — disappointing the middle class, moderate Democrats, tax-relief/budget reform hopefuls, gay rights advocates, neoconservatives and Harry Belafonte. He ditched his major premise of being a moderate alternative to liberal Democrats. He dumped the middle-class tax relief. He broke the pledge that Mrs. You-Know-Who wouldn't have what amounts to an executive job. He even broke his vow to a love-struck press to be more accessible than George Bush. What an exciting and historic three months!

Now a broken promise a day is not necessarily a bad thing, considering Big Bill's first foray into commander

in chiefhood: the Branch Davidian fiasco.

Last Monday I was amazed to see tanks bust holes in the compound, toss in tear gas and then . . . back off. It seems the authorities were "engaging in controlled escalation to bring the opposition to the bargaining table." Who was in charge here — McGeorge Bundy? This is precisely the strategy that lost us Vietnam.

Now Clinton's taking undeserved heat for letting Janet Reno stop the bullet — or the buck. Folks say the president should stand up for members of his administration, which is precisely the point. Atty. Gen. Reno is not part of Bill Clinton's administration. She serves in Hillary's.

Yes, we now have two presidencies: the Clinton administration and the Rodham administration. The Clinton White House is a place of eager, maladroit young caffeine addicts, producing megalomaniac trial balloons that sound great at 2:45 a.m. but stink like overripe grapefruit in daylight. Someone clearly needs to confiscate the kids' mini-cappuccino machines.

But the Rodham administration is a deadly serious regime of legal-bureaucratic politics. So far it hasn't accomplished anything either, but it has spun wheels with more panache than Bill's. While hubby flails, Hillary is assembling the usual suspects into a powerful pro-big-government militia.

This two-headed beast can best be called the Hill-Billy Presidency. By the time Clinton's machine implodes, the Rodham White House will have bolted down enough rules, policies, judicial decisions and mandates to keep liberals in clover through three Reagans. So when the Clinton administration looks back in satisfaction at lots of promises it didn't implement, the rest of us will have to learn to live with Rodhamism: a promise we'll wish they hadn't kept. Even if they never actually made it.



CHUCK
MOSS

■ Chuck Moss is a Birmingham writer whose column appears on Saturdays.

CAPRICE '89, V8, nice car. \$6995
Bad credit/no credit, bankruptcy,
no day Chev. 474-3594

CAPRICE '87 - tilt whl., am-fm
cass., very clean in/out, very
sharp, must sell, \$3300; 933-1071

CALIER '91 - White 4 dr, air,
26,000 mi. Good condition, \$5500.
Call 757-3812

CALIER '91 - 26,000 mi.,
air, \$5450. 754-0151

CAVALIER '87 - wagon, new tires,
brakes and shocks, power, clean,
\$3,350. (313) 429-0691

CELEBRITY '86, loaded, Bob,
\$3755. Action Olds 261-6900

Guaranteed Credit Approval,
arrive home today, immediate
delivery, your jobs your credit.
Call Mr. Karr. 261-6900

ACTION OLDS 261-6900

ROC '84 like new, Stan, \$6755.
ACTION OLDS 261-6900

LUMINA '92 Euro, loaded, \$11,995.
no day Chevrolet 474-3594

LUMINA '92 - Euro 3.4 Sedan,
GM Exec, asking \$13,400. 855-0585

LUMINA '90, loaded, sharp, Bob,
\$5755. Action Olds 261-6900

LUMINA '90 Eurosport - blue 4
dr, V-6, loaded, 88,000 hwy. mi.,
clean, asking \$5395. 228-7174

950 Chrysler

CONQUEST '87 - Loaded, low mi.,
red, exc. cond. \$5100/best offer.
461-7930

CORDOBA '83 - p.s., p.b., cruise,
am-fm, clean, very good
cond. 72,000 mi., \$2500. 771-8272

FIFTH AVE. '91 - Mark Cross,
2-bar, 14,000 mi., \$14,500.
551-1991, 739-5536

FIFTH AVE. '86 - Loaded,
white beauty, 1-owner, So
clean, looks like new.
\$2,695. 644-8639 or 624-6640

ELSER '85 - 5 spd., fully
loaded, 83k miles, excell. cond.
\$3000/best. 558-5967

LEBARON '88 Conv. - Premium
high pkg., loaded, 60,000 mi., exc.
cond. \$5500. 623-6811

LEBARON '85 GTS - low mi.,
Auto, air, asking \$2900. 791-4439

NEW YORKER '88 - fully
loaded, excellent condition,
new tires, \$4795. 656-3484

NEW YORKER '86 - Low
mi., Full pwr. Am-fm cass. Good
cond. \$3200 or best. 399-6419

NEWPORT '80 - good cond., 4
dr, air cond, all pwr., \$3,000 mi.,
\$1600. 255-4533

NEED A CAR?
Then YOU need us!

CALL 777-7500

Bad Credit, No Credit
WE FINANCE EVERYONE!
Even if you have been turned
down elsewhere. Your job is your
credit. Dir. 535-9280.

CROWN VICTORIA '85
LOADED, EXCELLENT COND
\$3000/BEST OFFER 581-3663

ESCORT '92 - LX, 2dr, hatch,
mini, loaded, lt. metallic blue,
\$7885. Call Bud 779-6302 aft 6pm

ESCORT '92 LX 4 Dr., \$7888
LIVONIA MAZDA 425-5400

Escort GTs '91, eqpd., 4 to choose,
from \$6995. Roy O'Brien 776-7600

ESCORT '91 GT - red, sunrf,
loaded, alarm, warr. \$8995 661-0968

ESCORT '89 - GT, 5spd., exc.
cond., 49K mi., new tires-exh.,
\$4200. 682-8706

ESCORT '89 GT - Bright red,
140K mi., \$2950, call 397-1347 bet.
6-10 p.m. or wknds. noon-10 p.m.

ESCORT '88 LX - auto, amfm
cass., very clean and more.
\$3000/best offer. 832-2431

ESCORT '88 - EXP, auto, air,
ps/pb, new tires, 64,000 mi, like
new. \$3500. 942-0546; 554-0430.

ESCORT '88 GT - 73,000 mi., new
tires, exc. cond., \$3200. 465-3687

980 Dodge

OPEN SATURDAY!

NOTICE ...

4 MILLION

\$\$\$

Inventory

Reduction

Sale

New & Used

Vehicles

WHEN:

Sat. April 24

10 AM-2 PM

WHERE

CENTURY DODGE

13500 Telegraph

Taylor

946-9430

25TH ANNIVERSARY SALES EVENT

**3
DAYS
ONLY**

• THURSDAY, 4/22 9AM-9PM

• FRIDAY, 4/23 9 AM-6PM

• SATURDAY, 4/24 10 AM-4PM

**NO GIMMICKS OR GIVEAWAYS!!
... JUST LOW LOW PRICES**

**OVER 500 VEHICLES WILL
BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH
THE LOWEST PRICE!!**

• DEMOS • CONVERTIBLES • VAN
CONVERSIONS • SPECIALTY VEHICLES
• AND SEVERAL EXTRA CARS,
TRUCKS & VANS ORDERED
ESPECIALLY FOR THIS SALE!

**A, X & Z PLAN BUYERS WELCOME
AND SAVE EVEN MORE!**

**BONUS BONUS ... WE WILL PAY YOUR SALES
TAX ON ANY USED VEHICLE PURCHASE***

McDONALD FORD
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED
427-6650
550 W. Seven Mile • Northville

*Previous sales excluded, offer definitely expires 4-24-93 and will not be extended!

Clinton's character a sticking point

WASHINGTON — People will accept just about anything in a president — Ronald Reagan's gaffes, George Bush's goofy locutions, the well-meant mishaps

of the pre-Iran Jimmy Carter. There is just one thing they will not tolerate: tackiness.

That's bad news for Bill Clinton. In the past two weeks the man from Hope has done more damage to the prestige of the presidency than any living creature since Jimmy Carter's killer rabbit. He has displayed ostentation that would embarrass Jethro Clappett, high-handedness that would offend Leona Helmsley and blame-shifting that would bring a smile to the Watergate-era Nixon.



TONY SNOW

The president's trouble began May 17 in Los Alamos, N.M. On that day he kept Air Force One idling for 45 minutes on a runway while a local barber trimmed the First Sideburns and applied a little makeup to Clinton's face.

The next afternoon the president escalated his beauty crusade. He tied up two runways at Los Angeles International Airport while a Hollywood hairdresser boarded Air Force One to rinse, snip and blow-dry Clinton's graying pomade.

The makeover cost American taxpayers at least \$76,000 in fuel and lost man-hours, and it cost Bill Clinton any chance of pawning himself off as just another guy. In hiring Christophe of Hollywood, the president gave the brush-off to Jim Mills of Little Rock, his barber of many years.

The hair affair set the tone for debacles to come. Upon returning to Washington, Clinton fired the entire White House Travel Office on grounds of "gross mismanagement." He then hired World Wide Travel, Inc., of Little Rock and placed 25-year-old Catherine Cornelius in charge of managing the travel office. Miss Cornelius, a distant cousin of the president, had written a memo in February recommending precisely those changes. She also had betrayed her travel-office colleagues by photocopying office documents on the sly, and then snitching to the FBI.

As reporters began to peel away layers of the story, things just got better and better. White House Personnel Director David Watkins had ties to World Wide Travel. Company officials had donated \$17,000 to the Clinton presidential campaign, from whom they received nearly \$2 million in air-charter business. And the entire fiasco got underway when Hollywood television mogul Harry Thomason complained that his and other airline charter companies didn't have a chance to bid for White House flights.

The administration rapid-response team quickly manufactured a new embarrassment. It "helped" a Federal Bureau of Investigation official draft a memo that described the bureau's review of travel office practices as a "criminal" investigation and released the confidential document to the press. In the process, the president's

lawyer, Bernard Nussbaum, bypassed safeguards designed to prevent the political manipulation of the FBI. That infuriated Atty. Gen. Janet Reno, who knows a scandal when she sees one.

Under such circumstances, you might expect an administration to take the gun from its temple and stop pulling the trigger. But no: The president defended the political hanky-panky, noting that nothing in the law specifically prevents White House officials from strong-arming FBI spokesmen. He also passed the buck: "I had nothing to do with any decision, except to save the taxpayers and the press money," he said. "That's all I know."

In that case, he was misinformed. World Wide Travel, which the White House later dropped as the travel agency of choice, has not impressed its journalistic clients. Reporters who covered the Clinton campaign received bills from the company six and seven months late, and sometimes got charged for inappropriate campaign expenses, such as risers and klieg lights. The president's pieties about money-saving also seem lame. The White House travel office today employs more people and costs more money than ever before.

By week's end two final jaw-droppers made news: IRS agents showed up to audit Ultrair, the airline that used to provide White House charter services; and presidential aides coerced New Hampshire television anchor Nanette Hansen into making up the president's face before a much-delayed interview on May 22.

Many of Bill Clinton's friends complain that he has suffered more damage at the hands of his staff and his Hollywood pals than he ever suffered from George Bush. But a scapegoat search won't help the leader of the free world. He can find his biggest enemy in the mirror.

In two weeks the president has condoned or committed arrogance, betrayal of old friends, back-stabbing, bullying, character assassination, conflicts of interest, cronyism, cowardice, denial, deception, finger-pointing and political intimidation. He has issued tardy apologies that sounded as if they were written by his mother. He waited nine days before conceding that he should not have gotten a haircut at LAX, for instance, and even then he complained that he had been misled by others.

When Bill Clinton says that Americans should talk about the real issues, he misses the point. Character is an issue, a crucial one. There comes a time in every administration when a president must rely on his values and judgment in order to lead the nation through an unexpected test. Unfortunately for Bill Clinton, Americans don't feel comfortable with his inner voice.

The president would have saved himself a heap of humiliation if just once in the past two weeks he had said, "Wait. We can't do this. This is stupid."

But he didn't. He kept people waiting. He burned taxpayer money. He offended hosts. And he tried to shirk responsibility.

Tacky.

■ Tony Snow is The News editorial page's Washington columnist.

...north of Missouri.

Over breakfast with journalists Friday, Boren and Cohen made a persuasive case that Clinton's success in governing, and his chances for re-election in 1996, hinge on making a turn now toward the political center.

"For the president to succeed at the end of his presidency," said the Oklahoma Democrat, "he's going to have to be able to say to the American people, 'I am a new kind of Democrat and I proved it in office.' He's not going to be re-elected by being Michael Dukakis."

As chief executive of Arkansas, the Maine Republican noted, Clinton governed as a middle-of-the-road Democrat, not a liberal. "Suddenly he's elected president with broad support from a much more liberal constituency," Cohen said, and "responded to that pressure by moving quickly to the left," which made him more politically vulnerable.

"He is going to have to move back to the center," Cohen said, "because that's where the American people are and the majority of the votes are."

Boren, who had a long private meeting with Clinton before declaring his opposition to the White House economic package, thinks the president is ready to move in his direction.

"I left the White House the other day . . . feeling that he would welcome bipartisanship and welcome an opportunity to move back to the center, and that he was almost being forced into moving leftward."

Boren added: "People like me are his natural constituency. He's the one who has been pulled away from where he was" during the 1992 campaign.

Caught between two wings of his own party, Clinton will have to make hard choices as he steers his plan through the Senate. That will help define what kind of Democrat he really is.

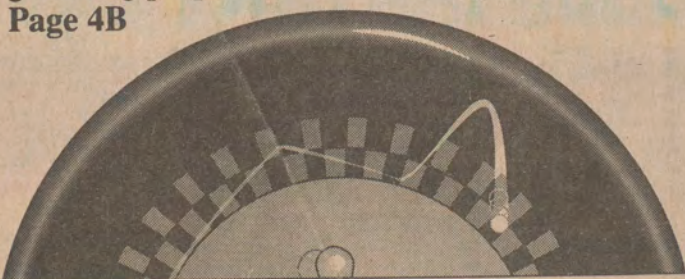
***"Dave Bonior is a take-no-prisoners
His predecessors played hardball,
does, too. You wouldn't expect a
whip under a Democratic president
differently."***

REP. FRED UPTON, R-ST. J.

DESCRIBING THE JOB OF DAVID BONIOR (at

Proposal

■ On Wednesday, Michigan voters will decide the fate of Proposal A, the school finance and property tax reform plan. We tell you what the ballot will say and what it means. Detroit voters only will cast ballots on another casino gambling proposal. For a voters' guide, see **Page 4B**



+ ■ Detroit News Washington Bureau Chief James P. Gannon's column appears each Sunday.

[Redacted]
Farmington, MI 48336



29
USA

Lilac



Mr Brian Lamb
C/O C-span
400 Capital NW
Washington, DC
20001

Suite #650