

Oct. 11, 1993

Dear Brian,

I'd like you to have a copy of something I wrote about the essence of this country and its people. I remember your missing aloud on this several times. I suppose a synopsis of my thinking on this is that we are a spiritual nation and people and that citizenship here requires a letting go of adherence to worldly values of our countries of origin - a "baptism of the spirit," so to speak.

For any event, for what its worth, here's my offering.

I admire you enormously,
Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

AN ARGUMENT FOR AMERICA

I submit that America is not a flashlight, but a beacon,
not a hideout but a haven, not a perch, but yet a home.

I submit that Americans are neither doves nor hawks, but
eagles that soar in the sun.

I submit that America is not the dregs of civilization,
but its cream.

I submit that America does not need discipline, but leadership.

I submit that most Americans are here because they would not
kowtow, or click their heels, or bow their heads before a king.

I submit that Americans look up only to God, and down only upon
evil. That America's true gaze is face to face with all human
beings.

I submit that Afro-Americans, especially, were and will be again
one of the most God-like and loving of peoples, and that God
does not find long-suffering and patience contemptible.

I submit that the soul of America is not to be bought nor sold,
nor still yet given away, it rests within its Constitution.

I submit this soul was near death, but lives still and will
survive, and that it deserves to live.

I submit that America's true wealth is not in money but in
spirit.

I submit that its true adventure lies not in foreign conquest,
but the inward journey of the soul.

I submit that its true path is neither right nor left, nor
crooked, but straight on to God. I rest my case.

[REDACTED]
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