

July 18, 1997

Brian Lamb
C-span
400 N. Capitol St
Washington DC, 20001

Dear Brian;

When I became active in grass roots politics in 1972, Republicans often quoted Alexis De Tocqueville as saying *"Yes, America does have a democracy, but if they take to voting themselves greater benefits from the federal treasury than they are willing to pay for in taxes, they will lose their democracy and it will be replaced by an authoritarian form of government"* or words to that effect.

I no longer have the exact words the Republicans quoted, and the Republicans have long since forgotten that quotation when they joined the Democrats in deficit financing.

Thus I appeal to you while you are in touch with so many scholars who have studied Alexis De Tocqueville. Please ask your De Tocqueville scholars to send me answers to the following questions:

- Did Alexis De Tocqueville write or say something like the above quotation, or is this an erroneous attribution to De Tocqueville?
- If De Tocqueville did say something like the above quotation, what were his precise words in English?

Many Thanks for C-span and for your personal leadership,

Seattle, WA 98117-2420

A. Tooy