

10 Sept 96

Brian Lamb, CEO
C-SPAN/DC:

re: The Notes Get Sadder, A Dirge

I hoped that your incredible gaffe with the James Madison scholar---refusal to touch on the Second Amendment fatherhood of the man---would not ever be redone. Alas, how wrong I was. And, it shows once more that you, sir, should take a much bigger interest in the art of interviewing, ie, refrain from interjecting your own shallow, poorly-educated musings to be posed as valid questions. The latest show on Father Coughlin (which I recall personally in the 1930s; I am that old) had within one remarkable and startling query re the Holy See and anti-Semitism. You asked the author if Coughlin's anti-Jewish tirades were not at odds with the Catholic Church en toto, if I recall correctly.

To say that this is naïve is to be understated. It is clearly in the camp of someone without the most meager education. It was so incredibly embarrassing that I now wonder how many letters you will get on it. Anyone not informed of the entire history of the Vatican cannot be said to be a reader at all. From the Inquisition to the Second Ecumenical Council (wherein it was not resolved the "guilt of the Jews" in the death of Christ!), Holy Mother Church, by all responsible historians, is the most anti-democratic, anti-feminine, anti-Semitic entity in world history. I will leave it to you to establish that, should you care to do it as a personal favor to yourself. There is a play, The Deputy, on this continuum. One of our current crop of TV tabloid shows not too long ago portrayed accurately the nature of a veritable pipeline within shouting distance of the Vatican in Rome, by which Nazi officials were allowed to escape at the end of WWII. And, you, sir, can posit a numbing question about Catholicism and anti-Semitism?!

Indeed, various minor instances took place whereby individual Catholic priests did assist in helping Jews escape the German tyranny of genocide. Did you know that the dictator Franco of Spain helped more Jews than the Vatican? It is so recorded accurately. Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli) never excommunicated Hitler.

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The most recent revelations about the Catholic Church and WWII are within Clive Ponting's ARMAGEDDON: THE REALITY BEHIND THE DISTORTIONS, MYTHS, LIES, AND ILLUSION OF WORLD WAR II (NY: Random House, 1995). See especially the section beginning on page 63, about the Vatican's largely untold record of support for Nazism. Yes, it is true. Known to those who will research an issue. This Pope was committed to the belief that a powerful German Reich was indispensable to the good health of the Catholic structure. Ponting shows that, contrary to your mewling words, Pius XII actually supported discrimination against Jews. As late as 1944, this leader of the largest Christian faction on earth refused to condemn the Holocaust!! Several "Catholic" countries actually mourned via national days of tribute the death of Hitler!!

It is all there, sir. Yet, one wonders if anything such as your confirmed insularity will slip into the new sure-to-be-fawned-over book on your place by two Oklahoma University profs. I'll ask them.

Even though you and your friends have proven beyond doubt that our system of broadcasting is a true criminal act foisted on an innocent republic, your enclave is still a captive of a mild form of doctrinaire leftism---unknown to the victim-purveyors.

Sure, I have no objection to watching Candace Gingrich. What rankles is the allowance of her group, name forgotten, the time to appear while you steadfastly exclude any and all pro-Amendment II outfits (some nearby). I enclose a flyer from one, in this marvelous new continuum of women who refuse to be victims; and, their obviously unfavorable connotations to the flakey left. Yes, pro-gun-ownership forces help SWARM; and, why not? Did you know that a new polling finds about 4 out of 10 native households have at least one firearm within? And, a study from the University of Chicago offers proof that crime is diminishing by virtue of the concealed carry laws nationwide?

You will, in all likelihood, not alter your ways. Nor will we. That is the conflict; and, this cultural chasm will only widen, deepen and darken. Someone said, two centuries ago (My mind is no longer agile), that "It is better to debate a question without settling it," than---the reverse. In regard

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(contd) to the upcoming election, C-SPAN remains firmly in the camp of the Democrats, clearly. Books abound on the Clinton mystique---the most well-documented being R. Tyrrell, Jr's Boy Clinton. No chance of hearing how the Fellow from Hope went to ~~Europe~~ Europe on trips funded by those fighting our men in Nam. No amount of rationalizing will assuage this favoritism in allowing Gene Lyons a book review slot as his counterparts are shut out.

We have a fable of a free press. C-SPAN, in spite of its obvious try to present balance, is at odds with the cherished assumptions we live by. That is the record which will no doubt be hidden in the upcoming book.

I am not sure I could do your work. I would be more like Susan Swain, cutting callers off in mid-sentence, than the far more tolerant Connie, Lew and J.J. And, your separate line set-up is proof that you wish a politically correct solution to what is bothering those in favor of a bigger government, ie, forced fairness(an oxymoron) as yet another favor from Big Brother. Shame.

The thanks ^{to you} are tapering off a bit. Could it be that this phoney-phone-line manipulation (one word) has alerted viewers to a disease that overtakes those inside the Beltway?

When you come to do your bio, sir, donot skip the thoughtful critiquing that must be in your files. I believe you will put in all the accolades, plus hate-mail. Why not the assessments from those with infinitely better educations and no axes to grind outside seeing reforms from a gaggle of highly-praised ---and very lucky (timing)---people at the right place and time?

Prof. Ponting lives in Wales, so cannot be used, probably.

Prof. Mary Lefkowitz lives in the U.S., did you know? Your dismissal of her is an indictment that sticks. Ciao,

MA, BA and P (1/3 of PHD)

note: I have this nagging suspicion that you take criticism poorly.

That is another DC character flaw, acquired, one hopes--- and so might be moderated.

Start on the single most egregious failure-betrayal-threat of the day: press concentration of power.

(bvel)