

Dear Mr. Lamb: Thought I'd send you a copy of this letter. I greatly appreciate your work and the work of C-SPAN.

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Sacramento, CA 95818
May 17, 1993

Anna Quindlen
% Random House
201 E. 50th St.
NYC NY 10022

Dear Ms. Quindlen:

Saw you with Brian Lamb but don't think I have ever read one of your columns. I would imagine that everyone who writes for the NY Times would be in favor of any woman having the right to choose to have her fetus aborted but not for that same woman to choose where to send her 10 year old to school. Unamerican, or something.

Next year, in June 94, educational choice will be on the ballot in California. The school lobby has already earmarked 12 million dollars to wrap the public schools in the flag and misinform the public about the initiative.

They will have some writers, those with socialist (big-government, interventionist, Democratic, maybe even Republican, all somewhat synonymous) tendencies, dropping false labels on the initiative, like "scam", which you called it.

It all went by so fast, and I was unprepared. I think you said that smart people would be able to pick good schools and dumb people wouldn't.

Twenty-seven point two percent of American kids have an absolutely atrocious diet: junk foods and soft drinks. (I just made up that statistic.) Therefore, we should have a Public Food System. The government will collect an enormous tax from everybody (from each according to his ability to pay...) and big red, white, and blue Public Food System trucks will deliver to each house (...according to their needs) sufficient wholesome food for all kids 18 and under.

Any parent who wants to feed her own child may do so, after paying the humongous taxes for the PFS, but it is estimated that only about 10% will be able to afford to do so.

Do you agree? Meanwhile, I am having some bumper stickers made up: MY CHILD IS A PRISONER
IN A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

Over, please

William Pitt, over 200 years ago said, I think this is a correct quote, "Necessity is the excuse given for every infringement of human freedom; it is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves."

You seem like a nice lady. I hope you will rethink your position. I tell everybody that New Yorkers are smarter than everybody else, having been brought up in the Bronx, and having gone to Cardinal Hayes in the early forties.

So now I am a Libertarian, perpetually saddened at governmentarian dogma and seeing government as a disease masquerading as its own cure. By the way, I taught in public schools for 30 years. All in all, a disheartening experience.


Somebody once asked Henry Ford, the story goes, "What makes Ford a great car?" He thought a moment or two and then answered, "Chevrolet."

I tell people that and then ask, "What makes the public school system great?" I get a lot of smiles for the answer.

And when governmentarians state excitedly, "But that will destroy the public schools!" I answer that that sounds like the argument of the East German government: "But if we take down the wall, all the people will leave!"

Someday I hope to read one of your columns.

Yours truly,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.