

Mr. Lamb, I never miss Book Rats if
I can help it and very much appreciate
the unfettered news and other presentations.
She tried to call in a few times but
have given that up. Best Regards

[REDACTED]
Kelso, WA 98626

January 3, 1999

Senator Slade Gorton
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-4704

Senator Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-4704

Subject: Senate Presidential Trial

Dear Senators:

I have chosen to address you in this rather unorthodox manner because I want each of you to be aware that I am contacting the other. I am an independent voter with a history of voting for each of you. However, the last several Presidential elections, I have voted for third parties. Not that I believe third parties have the capabilities necessary to run effective administrations at this time, but I advocate the idea that it seems the only way to break the strangle-hold on present day campaign financing, negative ads, and thus campaigns that do not speak to the issues.

Although I have not watched the Sunday talking heads for many years, I made a point of watching most of them today because of the pending trial. I was proud to see that our state has an independent thinker, Senator Gorton, who is strongly in favor of a bi-partisan stance in this trial. I hope that you and Senator Lieberman find broad support for your ideas. However, when both parties continue to hold meetings, on this issue, separately on party lines I am rather skeptical. I also wish to commend you for stating that you believe the President should be removed from office. I heartily agree.

I believe the ideal solution, which I have not heard discussed, is to identify strong democratic leadership who will convince President Clinton to resign. If he truly wants to put the country first he will do so. Past precedents I recall are Barry Goldwater and Al Haig during the Nixon debacle and Clark Clifford's actions, although not an elected official, influenced President Johnson's decision not to run again because of the divisiveness of the Viet Nam war.

O. impeach

The argument that Clinton won the election twice, does not hold water. There are serious writers with sound credentials who believe the Oklahoma Bombing incident turned the tide in his favor in the last election. Whatever the reason, I do not believe that any representative or senator need fear any reprisal from their constituency if they let their individual consciences guide. I think most Americans long for honesty and integrity.

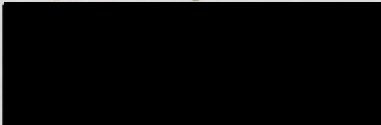
Since we do not live in an ideal world, the second solution is to proceed along constitutional lines with a full trial. To short circuit the process is to prove voters' worst doubts, that expediency precedes sound judgment. Even though many of the representatives conducted themselves abominably in the impeachment hearings, the evidence was presented thoroughly. I tried my best to keep an open mind. Toward the end, majority attorney, David Shippers, convinced me with his step by step presentation showing blown-up phone bills, and much other overwhelming evidence. Surely each Senator had capable staff members monitoring all of the hearing! As an aside, Lindsey Graham and Charles Canady, were two Representatives that demonstrated that they had actually heard what the academics were saying at the beginning of the hearings about the importance to our country that the constitutional process be upheld.

Polls - I believe that only politicians and media persons place any credence on their reflections. I am a 69-year old full time student at WSU-Vancouver. I have yet to encounter anyone who has been consulted by any poll. Even so, the questions asked are not framed in a depth that would result in meaningful insights. I believe the reason Clinton consistently shows popularity demonstrates a backlash against the political right, and the tendency of the press to hound people with intrusive questions that not even a Psychiatrist would ask. Anyone who bothers to inform themselves in any depth, understands that Clinton's well-documented behavior throughout his political career reflects a shoddy character. His questionable timing of the recent Iraq bombing is only a continuance of this long history of his shady political shenanigans. Granted, we humans are flawed characters, however, most of us learn from our mistakes and decide to behave responsibly.

Finally, I agree with those who believe the President should not deliver his state of the union message during his trial. His ongoing deplorable behavior justifies such a modification. Besides, it is time his opportunities to manipulate the public are not enhanced.

I am sorry this letter is so long, but if I wrote about all the things that are on my mind it would be much longer. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,



cc:Henry Hyde Trent Lott Joe Lieberman Tom Daschle
Patrick Moynahan Tom Delay Dick Gephardt Jesse Jackson
Bill Moyers Dave Broder Ralph Nader Brian Lamb
Lindsey Graham Charles Canady