

May 30, 1994

BRIAN LAMB
Best Balanced
Programming
in The USA

[REDACTED]
Washington, DC

Dear [REDACTED]:

On Journalists' Roundtable the other day, you said you weren't sure if there was a double standard in the major media. If you doubt that a double standard exists, you are probably part of it, knowingly or unknowingly.

Let's compare some coverage of similar stories.

Bill Clinton's Justice Department, under Janet Reno, is in the process of cutting special deals for Clinton (immunity in Fornigate) and everybody's pal, Rosty (negotiated indictment). There's no criticism from the media while these specials deals are being arranged for the President and a powerful congressman. If, when Ed Meese Was Attorney General, he had tried to arrange similar deals for, say, Ronald Reagan and Jesse Helms, how quiet do you think the media would have been?

When Clarence Thomas and Bob Packwood were accused of sexual harassment, the media went into high gear to support the accusers. When Clinton and Daniel Inouye were accused of similar activity, the media put on the brakes and began making excuses for them and attacked their accusers.

For two decades Republicans were considered by the media to be guilty of any allegation, and it was up to the Republican to prove he was innocent. Now that it's Clinton and Rosty, the press says they are innocent until proven guilty, and probing tactics by the media to uncover factual information are out-of-bounds. Journalists are even holding hand-wringing panel discussions wondering if they are being too hard on Bill and Hillary.

Did you ever hear anyone in the media say they ought to take it easy on Reagan or Nixon because probing to discover the facts of accusations against them would interfere with their ability to govern?

As long as it was Reagan, Nixon, Bush, North, Meese, Thomas, Tower, Quayle, et.al., on the skewer, it was AOK with major media. Now that a couple of liberals have been in the White House for a year, press coverage is just too mean and vicious. And this switcheroo is made by the major media with a straight face!

The watchdog press is unrelenting when a Republican is accused of wrongdoing, but when its a Democrat the lapdog press is silent. That's a double standard. That's hypocrisy.

Take a look in the mirror, [REDACTED]

Very truly yours [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Pittsburgh, PA 15235-5041

[REDACTED] NPR leads the charge on
- You too. Republicans, covers up
for Democrats.

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