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New Iberia, La.
Zip 70562-1702

[REDACTED]
Citizen of the United States of America

Phone [REDACTED]

December 19, 1994

Mr. Bryan Lamb
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol Street Northwest
Suite #650
Washington, D. C. 20001

Viewer

Dear Mr. Lamb:

You have done an excellent job to educate me about the manner in which those who control the government and the news media of the United States of America have misled me, and the people of this country, for many, many years.

I first listened to your programs on the audio signals of scrambled television channels for years, and more recently have been able to watch C-SPAN 1 on my local cable service. As the years have passed, with your help, I have somehow managed to piece together much of the puzzle of national events, and to get some idea of what was, and is, actually happening within our society and economy.

If nothing else, I now know how ignorant I am of all too many aspects of the government, its agencies, and how the confiscated earnings of those who work for a living are spent and squandered by all too powerful and unscrupulous individuals who have, are now, and I fear will probably continue to determine our futures.

The attached parable reflects a perspective that could not exist were it not for your labors and excellent programs. Thus, to a great extent you are responsible for its creation, and much if not most of any wisdom that it might contain.

Therefore, should it be of any value, it is yours to do with as you see fit.

Thank you for your wisdom, foresight, objectivity, and C-SPAN.

With true respect and admiration,

[REDACTED]
Concerned Citizen of the United States of America

About the Author

This story is written by a nonconformist, an individual born with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, and a mind incapable of forgetting or not properly organizing information, so pragmatic that it cannot fail to analyze and try to answer questions using this data, that have not even been asked. He was reared by dedicated and loving parents, in a small, southern, oilfield town, devoid of almost any organized cultural and intellectual environments. As a child, far too studious and sensitive to be accepted by his peers, he isolated himself in fiction and studies of literature, art and science through books from the public library.

As a young man, still unable to find peers with whom he could identify, he painfully adapted himself to his environment, working in the oilfields and construction industries, as an engineer and a salesman, in finance and banking, and finally the appraisal profession. Refusing to embrace a philosophy of greed, he has made a living, but has never belonged to, or been truly an integral part of the thinking and philosophies of the world around him. Still totally independent in perspective and philosophy, he is now 48 years old.

Perhaps the only benefit of this singular existence, if it can be called a benefit, is that he has never allowed himself to be assimilated into the "establishment" world around him, and to a great extent is therefore able to see it, more or less, for what it really is.

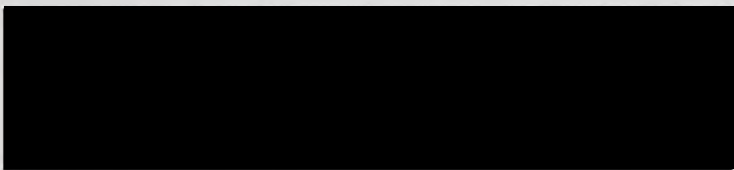
It is with great pain and frustration that he now watches the self serving and destructive actions and policies of the political parties, their government and its agencies, and having the knowledge and cognitive abilities to do so, to foresee their likely ramifications for the people of this nation and the world.

Dedication

The attached parable is intended as a contribution to, toward the recognition that, *We The People* must very soon demand that we be allowed to, and accept that we must, shoulder the responsibility of making many difficult decisions and working unselfishly and diligently to achieve positive but trying changes in our social structures and our government. Only then can we look forward to enjoying a healthy and prosperous society and economy. In the attached parable, employing uncomplicated ideas to convey an almost indescribably complex situation, I have tried to provide a vehicle that will allow many if not most of those who have been unable to see, or prevented from seeing, our world as I have seen it from a relatively unbiased and pragmatic perspective. I hope that it can perhaps allow us to understand, in a broad sense, what has happened to our economy and society, and the likely consequences of the current policies and objectives of those who now only pretend to represent us, but who unfortunately actually do control our lives and destinies, and will shape our future as a people.

The truth is often less than pleasant, the message in *Of Trees and Vines* is far from pleasant. When I finished it, I read it, and I cried. My tears are not for us, but are for our children, if we now fail to do the best we can for them.

Should you consider the attached work to be significant, my signature below hereby authorizes and assigns you, *C-SPAN*, the nonexclusive and limited right to publish and to broadcast *Of Trees and Vines*, and to do so with no monetary or other compensation or obligation to me, beyond acknowledgement as the author. I also hereby relieve you of any liability whatsoever for any and all damages that publication of this piece might cause me, its author.



Date: December 19, 1994