

cc: ~~xxxx~~
b. benn

00.571 NOV 20 90

[redacted]
Hayward, Ca 94544

[redacted]

Nov. 15, 1990

DEC - 6 ANS'D

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I'm a regular viewer, but I haven't been able to get through by phone. I have used many of your programs in my classrooms for several years. I give C-span the highest grades for what you are doing, despite any of the criticism I hear from callers. You and the entire staff should be commended for the outstanding work you do every day.

I am a pretty good teacher. After 35 years I have never been commended or given any respect for what I do. My salary has always been too low. I have been humiliated by idiots that run the schools. How would you like a station manager to interrupt your program and discredit you in front of your audience? That is what teachers put up with every day. Some quit, some stop teaching and some burn out.

No news media organization has done anything to inform the public regarding why the schools are failing to educate kids, especially in the inner-cities. Most of my teaching has been in the worst schools of the inner-cities, about 70% of my students dropped out every year. They were the smart ones. They knew the system doesn't work for them.

Teachers do not run schools and they get blamed for what is wrong. The 16,000 separate school districts, 82,000 schools, and 90,000 school board members are not even attempting to educate at-risk kids.

Reagan wanted to cut the dropout rate to 10%, but it has grown over the years to about 30% for whites, 40% for blacks, and 50% for Hispanics. The "Education President," that won't spend

money for education, and the 50 governors, want to cut the dropout rate to 10% by the year 2000. The dropout rate will probably remain at about 1,000,000 students a year or 3000 a day for the next ten years, because no one will do anything but talk about it.

We hear about, but see no reforms. I was in Los Angeles when they were attempting to restructure the schools, but most schools are run like the were 100 years ago and most teachers suffer under the same ancient conditions because those in power will not give up their power.

I am worried about this country because my seniors cannot fill out an application form or write a sentence. I'm working with graduates that cannot read. The level of education

to acquire a job will be at about two years of college by the year 2000.

The "reforms" have led to more academic classes and less vocational classes for the at-risk students.

I had been teaching for 30 years and the superintendent in Los Angeles decided that all 30,000 teachers should learn how to write a lesson plan on our own time on Saturdays with no pay. They called it a seven-step plan. An administrator that had not been in a classroom for 20 years taught the class. I refused to use the plan because it didn't work with my students and did not take into account the fact that the principal could interrupt my class every period of every day over a loudspeaker that I could not control. I also had more than 40 non-speaking English students in my five classes.

like the movie, "A Planet of the Apes," it was, "a mad house."

Every day my students were billing someone or being billed because many were Crips and Blood. My book on "Gangs and Schools" is being published by Learning Publications Inc., Holmes Beach, Florida. It will describe the situation in South-Central Los Angeles and other inner-cities.

If you read this, I want you to know that I have written to at least 100 people like you and not one has ever answered one of my letters. I'm not sure what that means.

Nevertheless, I have tremendous respect for you, the other interviewers and your station, and I hope that you will continue to do outstanding work. Sincerely,