

[REDACTED]
Washington, D.C. 20007

May 9, 1994

TO: BRIAN LAMB, C-SPAN
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I do not have a FAX, and I have been unable to get through to you by telephone. The proposal I wish to make would probably have not been terribly appropriate during the broadcast of D-Day, 50 Years.

I watched the entire program on Saturday and Sunday and was totally riveted. I congratulate you and your C-Span associates for this fine program. Since I did not go to many movies during World War II, much of the information was "news to me".

My age is about the same as those brave servicemen who participated in D-Day. I spent World War II years at a Naval Base on the west coast, about as close to the war as I could get. We worked at least 12 hours a day, often 7 days a week. The officers and men, and the civilians, were totally dedicated to winning the war.

We knew that the stakes were high; civilization as we knew it was in danger, and we had to win.

Particularly disturbing to me were the comments by the three old soldiers when asked their reaction to President Clinton. It was a question that needed to be asked, and you had the courage to ask it. You were attacked today on this morning's program for asking it, and I admired your grace in thanking the caller.

These three brave old heroes are, in my opinion, equating our allegiance, patriotism and dedication to our country during World War II to the situation that existed during the Vietnam War. World War II was a "good" war, a right war for the right reasons. There was little if any question about it. The Vietnam War is generally (but not unanimously) conceded to be the "wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time." There are questions that need to be asked of these three old heroes:

1. Were the German people justified in supporting their leadership (i.e., Mr. Hitler), on the basis of "my country, right or wrong?"

If not, what would these three old soldiers believe should have been the reaction to a rebellion by the people, especially the younger ones?

Even today, 50 years later, many (but not all) Germans will tell us that: They didn't know; they were afraid, etc. etc.

2. What should our young men have done, and how should they have done it, to show disrespect/disagreement for a policy they believed was wrong?

Perhaps you have plans to do a similar program for VE day next May, and for VJ day in August 1995. I hope so.

If you do, I would propose that you add a dimension to the commemorations to explore the above questions, so as to put World War II and the Vietnam War into their proper perspectives.

The American people need to come to terms with their definition of patriotism. Mr. Clinton should not be left to twist slowly in the wind, not being able to defend his actions in the late 1960's, and thus continue to be labeled "Draft Dodger."

I believe that had it not been for Mr. Clinton and millions who thought as he did, The Wall would contain many more than 58,000 names. It was they, not Mr. Nixon, who got us out of Vietnam.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]