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SAVANNAH, GA 31405

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September 26, 1994

Mr. Brian Lamb
C - Span
Washington, D. C.

Praise
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Dear Mr. Lamb:

I have really enjoyed the reenactments of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. I have not seen them all from start to finish, but I enjoyed what I have seen. The people portraying them are to be commended.

But, like all things coming out of Washington, they have a left leaning slant, thanks mainly to your guests. Your guests (that I have seen) have been professors at northern colleges and universities, who, presumably had done some research on Lincoln. Else, why would you have them on your show?

Their research was shallow, and their knowledge of Lincoln abysmal. Your guests seemed to want to glorify Lincoln, and to say nothing negative about him.

They overlooked (or chose to ignore) that in a 1858 debate Lincoln made the following statements:

"I will say, that I am not, nor never have been in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races - that I am not, nor ~~sever~~ have been in favor of making voters or jurors of negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor, to intermarry with white people; and I will say in addition to this, that there is a physical difference between the white and black races... I, as much as any other man, am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race."

Although, it is not the politically correct thing to say, it is the truth. Can a leopard really change his spots?

Also, his (Lincoln's) Emancipation Proclamation was a farce. It was a self-styled war measure. Its purpose was to drape the invasion of the South in the robes of morality. It, also, was an effective propaganda ploy to influence France and England not to do business with the South. It was also an attempt to encourage slave insurrection in the South. But, it did not work.

(continued on page 2)

Mr Brian Lamb

Page 2

The truth is that Lincoln's so called Emancipation Proclamation was not designed to free slaves. A careful reading of the proclamation will show that Lincoln declared free those slaves who were held "within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States." In other words he declared free those slaves over whom he had no control. But what about those slaves in states or portions thereof in which he had control and supposedly could have declared free. Not a word is said about these slaves. Indeed, the six parishes of Louisiana, which were under Northern control, were specifically excluded from this great document of freedom, as were the forty-eighth counties designated as West Virginia! The proclamation states that these excepted areas are "left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued."

Also, overlooked (or ignored) by you and your guests is that the wife of one of Lincoln's favorite generals, Ulysses S. Grant, held slaves at the beginning of the war. History shows that Grant held the slaves until after the war. History also shows that Grant's slaves were freed, not by Lincoln's proclamation, but by the ~~13th~~ Amendment to the Constitution, which was passed after the war. Grant's excuse for not freeing his slaves was "good help is hard to come by these days."

13th
What kind of research is that? Is that normally what you expect of your guests?

Why didn't you have some Southern historian on your program to give it some semblance of balance?

Don't forget, many of your viewers are from the South. You owe it to them. Many of them have a different opinion of Lincoln than do you and your guests.

The question remains, was Lincoln motivated by a true love for his fellow man, or was he motivated by a desire to further his own political career.

Yours truly,