

C-Span

Spt., Ct. 06606

Feb. 23, 1991

MAR 5 - ANSD

Re: Call-In Reed Irvine (Yuk!)

CC: S. Trahern ✓

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There are few more dangerous views than those of an Ugly American named Reed Irvine who heads the inaccurately named "Accuracy in Media." Indeed, his particular appearance on C-Span chills! Make no mistake, this guy had his "callers" alerted — I have watched him address young people, urging them to cut down the free press, telling them the folks interested in protecting our environment are wrong! Acid rain, he claims, is non-existent — This is a very dangerous doctrine and this guy has his "audience" preened and he knows it. And those like him, are more dangerous to our freedoms than we know. He needs to be exposed for what he is and who he speaks for — The Ugly American.

Sincerely,

Colin McCarthy

P.S. How about Alex Molnar — He could ask Irvine questions.

If My Marine Son Is Killed...

By Alex Molnar

MILWAUKEE
Dear President Bush:
I kissed my son goodbye today. He is a 21-year-old marine. You have ordered him to Saudi Arabia.

The letter telling us he was going arrived at our vacation cottage in northern Wisconsin by Express Mail on Aug. 13. We left immediately for North Carolina to be with him. Our vacation was over.

Some commentators say you are continuing your own vacation to avoid appearing trapped in the White House, as President Carter was during the Iran hostage crisis. Perhaps that is your reason. However, as I sat in my motel room watching you on television, looking through my son's hastily written last will and testament and listening to military equipment rumble past, you seemed to me to be both callous and ridiculous chasing golf balls and zipping around in your boat in Kennebunkport.

While visiting my son I had a chance to see him pack his chemical weapons suit and try on his body armor. I don't know if you've ever had this experience, Mr. President. I hope you never will.

I also met many of my son's fellow soldiers. They are fine young men. A number told me that they were from poor families. They joined the Marines as a way of earning enough money to go to college.

None of the young men I met are likely to be invited to serve on the board of directors of a savings and loan association, as your son Neil

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was. And none of them have parents well enough connected to call or write a general to insure that their child stays out of harm's way, as Vice President Quayle's parents did for him during the Vietnam War.

I read in today's Raleigh News and Observer that, like you, Vice President Quayle and Secretary of State Baker are on vacation. Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Cheney is in the Persian Gulf. I think this symbolizes a Government that no longer has a non-military foreign policy vision, one that uses the military to conceal the fraud that American diplomacy has become.

Yes, you have proved a relatively adept tactician in the last three

... I won't
forgive you,
Mr. Bush.

weeks. But if American diplomacy hadn't been on vacation for the better part of a decade, we wouldn't be in the spot we are today.

Where were you, Mr. President, when Iraq was killing its own people with poison gas? Why, until the recent crisis, was it business as usual with Saddam Hussein, the man you now call a Hitler?

You were elected Vice President in 1980 on the strength of the promise of a better life for Americans, in a world where the U.S. would once again "stand tall." The Reagan-Bush Administration rolled into Washington talking about the magic of a "free market" in oil. You diluted gas mileage requirements for cars and dis-

mantled Federal energy policy. Now you have ordered my son to the Middle East. For what? Cheap gas?

Is the American "way of life" you say my son is risking his life the continued "right" of America to consume 25 to 30 percent of world's oil? The "free market" which you are so fervently devoted has a very high price tag, at least parents like me and young men women like my son.

Now that we face the prospect of war I intend to support my son his fellow soldiers by doing everything I can to oppose any often American military action in Persian Gulf. The troops I met serve far better than the political and policies that hold them hostage.

As my wife and I sat in a little outside our son's base last week trying to eat, fighting back tears, a young marine struck up a conversation with us. As we parted he wished us well and said, "May God forgive for what we are about to do."

President Bush, the policies you have advocated for the last decade have set the stage for military conflict in the Middle East. Your response to the Iraqi conquest of Kuwait has set in motion events that increasingly will pressure you to our troops not to defend Saudi Arabia but to attack Iraq. And I'm afraid that, as that pressure mounts, you will wager my son's life in a gamble to save your political future.

In the past you have demonstrated no enduring commitment to any principle other than the advancement of your political career. This makes me doubt that you have either the courage or the character to meet the challenge of finding a diplomatic solution to this crisis. If, as I expect, you eventually order American soldiers to attack Iraq, then it is God who will have to forgive you. I will not.