



Coos Bay OR 97420-2613

Save-the-Redwoods League

Brian Lamb, President, C-Span
400 Capital Street, NW, Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

October 8, 2005

Dear Mr. Lamb:

First, I want to thank you and your staff (Susan, Connie, et al) for a most entertaining and enlightening program for almost a generation now. As I keep late hours, I don't have the chance to call in, and so I will write instead. Besides, being of the Depression and WW II era, and pushing 88, I don't think on my feet as well as I used to.

First, I was dead-set against our invasion of Iraq. The only other world leader of my lifetime to invade another country on a trumped-up pretext had the initials A.H.—and I don't mean Alexander Hamilton or Andy Hardy. But doing so under Rumsfeld's direction meant that a fiasco was inevitable.

I was an army officer in WW II, but had served four pre-war years in the Marines, in the course of which I learned Clausewitz's principles of war along with other officers. The first was "isolate the battlefield," and I'm pretty sure that's what the generals had in mind for Iraq before Rumsfeld's meddling. To do so would have meant a large force that might have sealed off Iraq from its border states and precluded the intrusion of "terrorist" fanatics. General Shinsecki must have known that, so he had to go. Another key element of a successful war is a perceptive propaganda campaign in advance of an attack, which this administration was quite unprepared for, or even aware of.

We made the same mistake in Vietnam—a war that I was also dead-set against. That is (for one thing), why go thousands of miles to "fight Communism" when it's ninety miles from Florida over here? The only reason that makes sense is that our manufacturers stood to make bigger profits in a far-away war. But then I remember the adage, "Never attribute to malice whatever can be explained by stupidity." Incidentally, please bear with my ranting—I have written untold letters to editors over the years that never saw print.

Another point: I have grown alarmed by the influence of fundamentalist religion, not just in the Middle East but also here by way of the Religious Right, "Moral Majority," the "700 Club," and the like who have bamboozled our President and most of his cabinet—extending even to certain Army generals.

It is obstructing our educational system, especially the sciences, which impelled me--not an author type--to write a book that is not likely to make it to your "Book TV" program.. It's a small assortment of essays that identify religion with superstition (belief in imaginary beings and creatures) and pointing out that the Bible's wisdom is expressed symbolically, in metaphor and allegory. That, of course, is not an original idea; it was expressed over seventeen centuries ago by Origen of Alexandria, an early "church father." If you are interested, it will soon be released by Xlibris,*

I have listened, with great pleasure, to the many complimentary phone calls expressing viewers' appreciation of your gratifying and meritorious program. You are doing a great service in bringing our people together, for which I can't thank you enough!

Sincerely,

*Xlibris (refer to proj. [REDACTED])

[REDACTED]
Philadelphia, PA 19113

Tel: [REDACTED]

www.xlibris.com