
Alexandria, VA 22302

January 20, 1997
INAUGURATION DAY

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Recently, I was fortunate to catch a review of your new book -- Between Hope and History, Meeting America's Challenges for the 21st Century, between Mr. Brian Lamb and you on C Span's Booknotes.

During the interview Mr. Lamb asked if you intended to pursue public service after your second Administration. Although you were cautious and eluded the question, you did make a favorable comment that other Presidents had continued in public service in some capacity after leaving office.

You mentioned three Presidents -- John Quincy Adams who served eight consecutive terms in the House of Representatives; William Howard Taft who served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; and finally Herbert Hoover who chaired the Hoover Commission during the Truman presidency.

You failed, however, to mention President Andrew Johnson. After leaving office, President Johnson was elected to the United State Senate after two unsuccessful tries. When President Johnson entered the senate chambers after his election, he received a standing ovation. This really Mr. President is what Movies are made of! Unfortunately, his death came four months later.

President Johnson, nickname the "Old Commoner," was one of only four Democrats that served as President between the Civil War and World War II. He remains one of my favorite Presidents, along with Harry S. Truman, who also shares a modest background. Andrew Johnson was born in a shack, fatherless at three, sometimes homeless and had very little public schooling. An illiterate man until he reached maturity, his wife Eliza McCardle took his education in hand and taught him to read and write.

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The Seventeenth President of the United States was a tailor by trade and even made his own clothing in the White House. He was definitely self-reliant, grimly serious, totally persevering, and intensely patriotic. All these characteristics help him as he climbed the ladder of political achievement from Alderman, Mayor, State Assemblyman, Congressman, Governor, Senator, Vice President and finally the President of the United States.

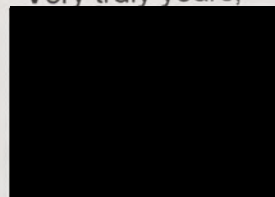
His Reconstruction Policy after the Civil War which was fashioned after Abraham Lincoln's plan to preserve the Union at all cost was scorned by Radical Republicans in Congress lead by Thaddeus Stevens. On February 26, 1868, a solemn and shameful day in U.S. History a resolution of impeachment lead by Mr. Stevens was voted in Congress. The resolution to impeach President Johnson failed on the required two third votes -- the vote by which the legitimacy of Presidential succession remained unstained.

At his death President Andrew Johnson requested he be buried with the American flag at his winding, his copy of the Constitution beneath his head. He is by all accounts a great American pioneer of the 19th Century and truly an unsung American hero. Remember Him!

Mr. President as you are a self-made man, you do have an interesting life history in the making. When people see the boy from Hope, Arkansas on the White House Lawn reaching for President Kennedy's hand we sense a place in history for you. Certainly, already you have risen and fallen and risen again.

This Inauguration day, I sincerely express my best hopes, dreams and aspirations that your vision for America, will be fulfilled as we all approach the 21st Century.

Very truly yours,



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cc: Mr. Brian Lamb
Senator Robert C. Byrd
Senator John D. Rockefeller, IV
Senator Charles S. Robb
Senator John W. Warner
Congressman James P. Moran