## ULYSSES S. GRANT

Soldier & President

GEOFFREY



RANDOM HOUSE

NEW YORK

434. Geoffrey Perret <u>Ulysses S. Grant</u>

Taped: 9/4/97 Aired: 10/12/97 Tape #: 78108

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Trant didn't swear Julia ownel Uslams - V.S. wasopposed Grant as a farmer as a sent collector Grant was desponate in 1860 well read but didn't to oppear bookies Why did that resign his commission?
Why did he have such a hand time getting command at start of livid WAR. What did Grant leave out of his Memoirs? Grant's relationship with John Rawlins

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Grant hatel Charles fammer - fauta Domingo Treaty

P 399

First Vern Pres. - Bry Isone - National Debt (2.5 B.)

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## ULYSSES S. GRANT

Joungest Pres. at time - 46 - 52 70 of votes

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Long Branch, N.J. Mexico BOOKNOTES 1997-10-12

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p. 442

Grant's biographer William **McFeely** says unequivocally that Grant perjured himself to save Babcock. He offers no new evidence to substantiate this remarkable contention;...

p. 443

To believe, as **McFeely** does, that Grant perjured himself requires a belief in the integrity of Bluford Wilson, which is stretching credulity to the breaking point.

p. 455

William **McFeely** presents some of Lytton's tale as being true, even though all of it is nonsense, and he accepts Lytton's description of six British sailors having to pull Grant off the unresisting, vomit-smeared Julia as a kind of compliment to Grant's physical strength.

p. 462

According to Adam Badeau, Grant wanted badly to be nominated for a third term and be President again. ....The trouble is, Badeau's claims, although accepted without question by **McFeely**, lack corroboration.

Grant's prize-winning biographer, William **McFeely**, believes that in turning a demonstration into an attack, Grant was insubordinate. This ignores the fact that in the nineteenth century field commanders had considerable leeway to interpret their orders--much more so than in these days of instant and secure communications.

Having decided that a demonstration would not suffice to achieve Fremont's objective Grant was not only free to act on that conclusion, but it was his responsibility to do so. It was that ability to read the situation-- nearly always on the basis of incomplete or misleading information--and to seize the initiative and act aggressively that would eventually take him to supreme command in the Army, while scores of other generals, less enterprising, closer to the **McFeely** ideal of subordination, failed.

p. 373

Grant's most hostile biographer, William **McFeely**, states forthrightly that Grant was lying, but there is no independent evidence of this.

The Johnson-Welles-**McFeely** version also seeks to ignore the fact that the President cannot order a military officer to commit an illegal act, and with the Tenure of Office Act on the statute books upheld by Congress and the Supreme court declining to consider it, Johnson was attempting to flout the law.

p. 430

...It helps explain why he was a mystery to contemporaries such as Sherman and to others who have studied him since, whether as admiring as Bruce Catton or as disdainful as William **McFeely**.