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*Winer*  
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Mr. Brian Lamb  
C-SPAN  
400 North Capitol Street, NW # 650  
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Dear Mr. Lamb:

Several weeks ago, during your call-in segment, you wondered why "liberals do not call in more often".

Perhaps, after having been demonized for more than a decade, there just aren't any "liberals" anymore. Possibly, after being blamed by your callers and guests for all the evils of the world, they just don't watch C-SPAN. I don't know. But I can tell you why I don't call you: I just don't have any questions that I would like to pose to your guests.

Some years ago, the Air Force wanted to know whether "experts" know any more than ordinary people, so they asked the RAND Corporation to investigate this question. It turned out that most so-called "experts" and "pundits" — people like most of your guests — really do not know any more than ordinary people.

Several days ago, in a speech that you broadcast, Speaker Gingrich expressed the same thing in a quite different way. He said that there are two kinds of people in the world. There are people who are articulate, but don't know anything. And there are people who know something, but can't explain it.

The two kinds of people are separated by what they study at a college or university.

Some students continue their study of mathematics, taking several years of calculus and courses in such subjects as differential equations, linear algebra and modern algebra, which are the prerequisites for the serious study of all of science and engineering. They eventually become mathematicians, scientists, engineers, and military officers.



Other students avoid the further study of mathematics. They study history, literature, philosophy, political science, and other subjects that have no mathematical prerequisites. They become writers, journalists, lawyers, politicians, managers, captains of business and industry, and our political leaders and they include almost all of the people who are usually perceived to be intellectuals, "experts," and "pundits". These are the people that the Speaker said don't know anything. I think this is a bit of an exaggeration, but these people do have a pre-scientific culture, based on literature, that remains essentially unenlightened by the scientific and technological advances of the past three centuries. And I think they usually display a certain characteristic fuzziness of mind, that does not easily survive the rigors of serious study in mathematics and science.

To return to your question, the words "liberal" and "conservative" have been evacuated of all meaning and are now useful only for purposes of ideological warfare or, if one is allowed to say it, class warfare. We now have two essentially indistinguishable right-wing parties of business. The Democrats give business most of what it wants, withholding only enough to keep contributions flowing, but some businessmen are not getting as much Aid For Dependent Corporations as they would like and think Republicans will give them even more. Thus, discussions of "liberal" *versus* "conservative" or Republocrat *versus* Demopublican can amount to little more than gossip, vain talk, and nonsense and, in any case, are far too silly to be of much interest to a reasonably intelligent ordinary person. Isn't it clear that the 62 % of registered voters, who didn't bother to vote last November, understand this rather better than most of your guests and callers?

Sincerely Yours,

