



NORTH BEND, OR 97459-0089

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

November 18, 2005

Dear Mr. Lamb:

Along with so many of your viewers, I thank you for C-Span! Since I am not yet on line, and as I haven't C-Span's phone number, I will respond to your subject (views about the Iraq war, 11/18) by letter.

I am also a vet of WW II, pushing 88, and was most strongly against both the Vietnam War and this one in Iraq because neither was waged for our national security but for the "military-industrial complex" that President Eisenhower warned us against. But Gore Vidal was right when he said we were the "United States of Amnesia." My analogy, or metaphor, for the two wars is "Rosemary's Baby."

In that story, a young woman (played by Mia Farrow) was duped into sex by Satan in order to bear his "redeemer" son. At first, she was horrified; but when the baby was born, her mother instinct kicked in and she cared for it --much to the Devil's satisfaction. You probably get the point already, but the analogy goes as follows.

The Devil is the aforesaid military-industrial complex (to which I would add the Religious Right); the American people are Rosemary; and our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines are the baby. Once we are conned into sending them into battle, we have no choice but to support them. On the other hand, World War II was thrust upon us against our will, which was a completely different matter.

Korea was a special case, involving the support and participation of the United Nations as well as troops from member countries—including the Turks. But it too, as well as Vietnam, could have been avoided altogether had we been smart after WW II. I served in the CBI* in that war and witnessed unbelievable starvation and misery among the Chinese, much of which was the result of Japanese savagery. It became obvious to our military there, and to key civilians (including certain missionaries), that the forces of Chiang Kai Shek were corrupt and ineffective. Also, those of Mao and Chou were friendly and cooperative—they even offered to serve under U.S. leadership if Chiang would do likewise, but he refused.



[REDACTED]
NORTH BEND, OR 97459-0089

Local principals, including Gen. Stilwell, advised cooperating with the Reds, which would have given us the chance of modifying their administrative methods—on the premise that communism (small c) was a necessary, interim measure to be followed by democratic reforms. They (Mao & Chou) much preferred our help to that of the Russians, but reactionaries in Washington couldn't grasp that principle (especially after Roosevelt's death) and drove them into Soviet arms. Had we done so, chances were good that they would have agreed to the temporary aspect of communism as a transitional condition—for the Chinese are a practical people who would resist the religiosity toward Communism evident in the Russian version.

My question: does this make me a "bleeding heart liberal," as some of your callers would call me? Well, I am also a gun-owner and watch Fox News. Anyway, you are free to mention any of this on your program.

With best regards,

*China-Burma-India theater of operations.

