

RE: Journalists Roundtable Jan. 11, 1990

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Members of the Panel:

The display I just witnessed in British Parliament on the clip you just showed (on replay) 11:40 pm PST ^{Friday} 1/12/90 was preposterous. The man* on your panel said he enjoyed "rough and tumble" politics. Agreed it is a growing experience to have to speak under fire as the Brits in the clip did. But if the process was not an exercise --- if it dealt with real decisions that affected real citizens, how can you justify such a haphazard discussion process?

I watch C-span occasionally, and see congressmen speaking on the floor with no attention being paid to them. I see other congressmen joking during the speech. I don't know the rules of order or the procedures, but I know that some important issues are being discussed. The world is becoming increasingly complex. A 21st century man of power, if he is to effectively help

* Stanley Cloud, TIME magazine

his nation, will have to be a Renaissance man in terms of his technical and historical training, as well as a political proficiency. He must know the intricacies of business and industry. I see a tremendous deficiency in the intellectual policies and proficiencies of our country's leaders. That they set their careers up to bandy words and promote bureaucracy makes me ill. The system must correct itself if we are to effect reforms in this country to become competitive in the new economic race.

I am a 25 year old mechanical engineer and I am embarrassed for all of you on the panel who exposed your real motivations for covering U.S. politics — to focus on the pettiness of the process, without denouncing the gravity of the inefficiency that causes so many shortcomings. If we are to fulfill our potential as a nation, you sons of bitches need to wipe the smiles off your faces when our leaders screw up — and try and help them out.

That means you Stanley.

Does anybody care?

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