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C-SPAN Viewer Services
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Gentlemen:

You do a tremendous service and you do it in a way that I truly appreciate. You try to be as enlighteningly ecumenical as possible - as you should. Your hosts are - each one of them - steadfast people who handle their tasks in a most professional way. Mr. Lamb reads my mind while sitting in his chair in D.C. and asks those questions that are burning in my head! The American public owes you a debt of gratitude. Going to different locales and doing the things you do is great and it lets people see how information is put together and distributed. You expose the innards of the beltway for what it is while helping us sort out the players. The view of the British, the Germans, the Japanese is info we need to have and the insights given are extremely worthwhile and interesting. I just don't seem to get too much of you - ever! That means you are always choosing interesting and topical things to show.

Might I suggest:

a. A fax number for talk show use.

Your line is always busy. I am not a pro at speaking in public and/or on the radio. One should decide on topics or info tidbits to have answered and submit them after having given some thought to his concern. Self-censoring is editing and I think the quality or clearness of thought could be elevated by a little more discipline on the part of the public.

b. To me ! The relationship between the EXTENT of the S&L crisis and inside the beltway hasn't been fully sorted out. Our DC "establishment" flings arrows of blame at "him" and "them" but no one has the broad shoulders of leadership to step up to the bar and accept some responsibility for what went wrong.

One very blank spot in the scenario - for me - is the relationship between the tax reforms of '86 and the depth to which real estate has sunk. Furthermore, we see no signs of revival of real estate values. Until some of the tax incentives are put back into real estate, there is a likelihood of an eternal depression, gross lack of potable housing and the degradation of real values forever.

Can't a tax code be designed that would incorporate some of the prudent incentives in the investment in real estate?

c. HOW DOES LEGISLATION GET DRAFTED? Is there a deep dark recess somewhere with people writing sentences that no one understands because the language is so convoluted and double-speakish? Who wrote the tax code we have? How many congressmen have read it? Has anyone ever suggested a sworn representation on the part of "sponsors" to bills in congress? Has anyone ever suggested that a "sponsor" must swear that he has read what he is "sponsoring"?

What would be the impact on legislation if our senators and representatives had to take an oath that they had actually read what they are voting on?

Comment:

You aired a program that I happened to catch because I came home from for lunch. I never saw it repeated. It was a "round-table" of accountants and IRS staff people who were talking about the impact of the '86 tax code.

A very bright young man was speaking when I turned on the TV. His name and company was flashed on the screen and I seem to recall him having a traditional Jewish name like Bernstein etc., wore glasses and was employed by one of the big 8 firms - I believe it was Price - Waterhouse. He was commenting on the impact of the '86 tax code and predicted dire things happening to real estate values plus a few other consequences. After him speaking the cameras searched out some other commenters and one of the subsequent commenters was a person from the IRS. He too gave the impression of scholarly insight but it was obvious that he was being very defensive about the comments of the earlier speaking "Mr. Bernstein" (? name).

Finally, in a most unprofessional manner, the IRS wimp blurted out, "How can we be held responsible for macro-economic effects?" - How devastatingly revealing was his comment!

The innards of the beltway have become a replica on one's digestive system. The matrix of relationships and chemistries defies a super computer counting them. If the efforts of the system do NOT enhance the quality of life for the people of the United States, then the system must be doing something that the people don't understand.

Huey Long wrote the primer on populism. We suffer as a state (Louisiana). We are made fun of and castigated in the national press. Yet, it looks like the innards of the beltway is on a collision course with Louisiana's type of image. Our national government is becoming more like Louisiana's every day.

I listen to the semantical processes of the beltway and then I listen to our local Louisiana politicians. The grammar, syntax, meter and delivery is smoother from DC but it is still FORM DRIVING SUBSTANCE!

While George McGovern didn't win any nationwide elections, he planted the seeds within the democratic party and allowed it to become the sewer pit for every special interest splinter group in the country. He took it away from the main stream of the people in the US who desperately need it back. The "Cells" he planted have germinated and much of the sub-standard behaviour which has become protected or institutionalized is attributable to the surfeit of "tolerance" he sought. Much "good" has been thrown out with the "Bad", ie;

Local control of schools has been thrown out with segregation!

Oppressive tactics by law enforcement on the underclass have been thrown out and replaced with oppressive red tape for law enforcement and part of our crime problem is contempt for the law.

The family has been destroyed under the guise of equal opportunity without ever describing equal responsibility for one's actions.

If you made me CZAR, I would gather some of my favorites and make them kiss one another at high noon daily for the world to see. Some of my pairs would be:

Ronald Regan	kissing	Dan Rostenkowski
Jesse Helms	"	Howard Metzenbaum and Teddy Kennedy
David Duke	"	Gore Vidal

I could go on.....

I really believe you are making an honest effort to give your audience an opportunity to hear what is going on without slanting or attempting to show favoritism. We are all human but I sincerely believe any mistake you make is an honest mistake and not a conscious effort to control the information you are distributing.

Thank you for doing what you do.

Sincerely

Shreveport, LA 71104