



POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12603

C-SPAN

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

2/28/92

Dear Mr. Lamb:

Over the past few weeks I have noticed an increase in the level of "call-in" bluntness in expressing their perspective on the elements of Govt. with which they pass judgement. And with this has been raised the perennial question about "the effect of television". Usually, the focus is obscured by imbedding in the more generic "media", a perspective you implicitly endorse by displaying various elements of the print and audio (radio) products and producer.

My comments, after much reflection, are offered after getting through the usual "cynicism" etc stages is that the major element that makes T.V. unique - especially C-SPAN, is that it publicizes Candor. Now Candor is a short form of "Total Honesty" which, at first blush, may be considered as a "Virtue". But honesty taken to the extreme of Candor forces those who "view/hear" it to adjust their own mental images in a way that is often socially unacceptable.

Note, for example, the oft cited cliché that "Every one detests Congress but likes their own Congressman". Doesn't this come down to saying "My Congressman has convinced me that he/she has the "best interests" of ~~myself~~ ^{myself} the District, and the Nation" (in that order) at least - and that's why I support him." Then seeing him/her on T.V. "playing the standard political game" (in all Candor) comes as a jolt. Of course, it follows, that all other Congress persons must be "scoundrels" because they don't agree with me (or my Congressman). And the many and varied rationalizations (on the part of the public ("callers")) are strongly correlated with the extent of understanding/comprehension of the specific individual.

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On the other side of the situation, is the set of premises and presumptions of those presenting the "programming". Usually they have all the explicit and implicit understandings of life "inside the Beltway". That means that the "political gamewanship" is basic, to the point of never being explicated. The viewer/receiver, not often familiar with these "Beltway" premises, treats the T.V. output with the same personal perceptions used in his daily life and activities where Candor is abnormal. "White lies" and "silence" are the societal norm which keep "communities" glued into coherence.

Let me use a current example: the charge that the "Democrats" are solely responsible for all the Budget Deficits etc. For viewers who don't realize the hard facts of Federal Budget processes, and are implicitly misled by comparison with some State Budget processes, the charge appears real because it is "made" with the "fact" (based on the Constitution) that "All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives;" (Art I, Sect 7). This is understood to mean that a new Budget is prepared each year (implicitly) from Scratch. No one, on TV, has ever made it clear that 90%, or more, of each "annual Budget" is merely an update of existing legislation by altering money amounts. Going further, no one ever explains how spending, in the main, results in a continuation of "prior year" budgets Authority, which I illustrate using the Current Budget (F.Y. 1993), Appendix One page 142.

New Authority recommended	\$1,509.9 Billion = \$1.51 Trillion
" " spending F.Y. 1993	1,484.2 Billion
Unspent prior Authority F.Y. 1993	<u>317.1 Billion</u>
F.Y. 1993 Spending	<u>1,501.3 Billion (= 1993 Outlays)</u>
New Auth. spent future years	325.7 Billion
Unspent prior Authority	<u>1,036.1 Billion</u>
Total Unspent Auth. carried forward	1,361.8 Billion = \$1.36 Trillion

This distinction of "Authority" and "Outlay," makes Federal Budgeting so different from either "Std. Business" or "State Budgeting" that for most people the comprehension is unknown, yet "inside the Beltway" it is a given. Hence, the reality that the FY 1994, carries a burden of some portion of the \$1,341.8 Billion (= \$1,329 billion) Authority (hence committed funding), probably in the range of \$300 to \$400 Billion.

One "amusing" (or am I being cynical) consequence is that, under present conditions, the Fed. Budget can only increase. (F.Y. 1994's Budget can be expected to be in the spending range of \$1,559 billion to \$1,659 billion.). And this discussion avoids the complication of "Supplemental Appropriations" which occur annually see Appendix One, p 1054-1057, current F.Y. 1993 Budget; as well as the practice of "Continuing Resolutions" for spending which is continued although enabling legislation has not been completed.

So, how does this relate to Candor, you might ask? Well one need only use the recent "Tax Legislation" debate - displayed in all its "reality". First, was it? Of course we saw some of the hearings and all of the floor debate in the House (the Candor). And some saw / heard elsewhere the simplified statements that "nothing would result". And audience response, particularly during the time period of House votes, condemning Congress for not acting in the National interest, etc. How absurd! Those who "blame the Democrats" simply ignore the fact that relevant Cong. Districts elected these people even if they chose a Republican Pres. and hence the Representatives are doing what they were elected to do. Further, the whole purpose of our "two party" system is to "oppose" each other. How naive can the public get?

There is one area where our "democratic" system is quite likely to fail. It is in the conflict between "the economy" and "the environment". These two "problems" are not compromiseable for the reason that each is focused on "survival" based on some exploitation of the other.

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- The political milieu has rationalized the problem in the following way.
- (a) "Environmentalists" - those extremists who want to preserve nature in a pristine and extremely old-fashioned way.
 - (b) "Conservationists" - those sensible people who wish to allow use of resources in a constrained way to permit a reasonable growth of the economy.
 - (c) "Real World" - those who wish to focus on whatever use is needed to promote economic growth in spite of environmental consequences.

None of these definitions is realistic in terms of the "economic" vs "Environment" situation. However to illustrate the point made, I reference the following:

- ① A. L. Gore: His whole book - especially his attempted compromises in Part III
- ② Paul Tsongas - "A Call To Economic Arms" - His call to "economic growth" contrasting with his ~~environmental~~ posture p 38 (Int P); P 40, "... pursuit of policies and lifestyles that allow consumption of resources to be consistent with having an inhabitable planet over the generations"; P 41 - recycling - in which he confuses "collection of potential recyclables" with actual recycling. (Actually, recycling is barely occurring in the U.S. (e.g. Newsprint is basically sold to Japan & Korea with a smaller amount actually processed in U.S. And most newsprint collected costs the community about \$45/ton to be removed.)
- ③ World Policy Journal - Winter 1991-1992 Two Articles.
 - "American Environmentalism: A Movement Courting Irrelevance" Mark Dowie pp 67-92
 - "Trading Away The Environment" Steve Shroybman pp 93-110 (discusses effects of U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA))

And since the environmental dilemma most outstanding is currently the "ozone layer" problem resulting from "waste disposal" of chemically stable gaseous compounds. Let me only refer to "Emissions of CFC-11 and CFC-12" two of many such compounds.

These gases take (on average) about 15 years to rise to effective levels of the atmosphere (i.e. to the 22 to 40 km level in the stratosphere). Once there, they survive for 75 years (CFC-11) or 100 yrs (CFC-12). So, what does this mean? Keeping it simple and considering both gases together, all the CFC's (11 and 12) released since 1930 are still in the stratosphere and the first 100 tons of CFC-12 (Freon) released in 1931, will not be used up until 2050. Emissions of these gases, released between 1931 and 1977, are those currently creating the Antarctic Hole and the "alarming" Northern Latitudes news items. See, for example, TIME 2/17/92 pp. 60-68, SCIENCE, 2/14/92 pp. 797-798, SCIENCE WEEK 2/8/92 p. 54.

From 1931 to 1977, data show about 8,737,700 metric tons of these two gases alone, were released. And, of course, these (mostly before 1970) are causing the observable effects currently published. Please note that these emissions are not likely to disappear (in and of themselves) until 2097. However between 1977 and 1982 an additional 5,524,600 metric tons were also emitted (hard data). Assuming 1984 levels continue to the present (a very conservative estimate because production has been increasing to date) I estimate another 4,029,600 metric tons or a total of 12,767,300 metric tons have yet to get up there.

And so for about the next 150 years we will have some 21.5 Million metric tons of CFC-11 and CFC-12 actively destroying the so-called "Ozone Layer".

The above ignores another 6 to 10 Chlorine releasing gases, most of which also, as with CFC-11 and 12, act as significant Greenhouse gases with planetary warming a certainty.

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The data above, now exposes the "environment" vs "economy" debate and the "nonsense" of the political compromise. If, as some propose, 1990 levels were allowed for emissions, after 1991, we would be releasing at least 200,000 metric tons, for the foreseeable future thus guaranteeing ozone destruction beyond 2200. The economic factor is the "demand" for "better life" - in this case "air conditioning and refrigeration" as well as "insulation" and so on. If "development" is to occur in "developing" nations expansion of production is most likely. See for example China + India for markets.

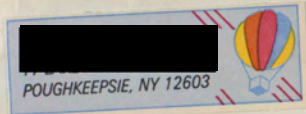
Clearly, the political process is subject to considerable strain, if not breakdown. As an institution it cannot function where compromise is not achievable and/or relative "absolutes" are in direct conflict. Other than "emotional panic", public response will clearly be no guide to how to respond.

Well, if someone manages to read all this, I'll be looking forward to your next interview with Al Gore (I thought I heard of a second interview in the works). Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

P.S. I enjoyed my trip to Manchester, N.H. and a curious tour of your facilities at the ~~Hotel~~ + Breakfast Inn. They do have a nice dining room. I had dinner there on Election Day.



Mr. Brian Lamb

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