

Greenfield, MA 01302
June 2, 1993

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David Lamb

C-Span Transcripts

% Tapecenter Inc.

P.O. Box 885

Lincolnshire, IL 60069

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I want you to know how much I enjoy your "Book Notes" program on C-Span. You are very fair and objective in your questions and discussions with various authors. However, I do want to gently chide you for your soft questioning of George Ball and of his book, "The Passionate Attachment," that was recorded on May 6, 1993 and aired on May 23rd on C-Span.

First of all, I disagree with the views and comments of Mr. Ball. In the interview, Ball stated that Israel expanded deliberately in the wars before 1982. You then questioned him about the aggression of various Arab countries against Israel before 1982 but then this point was quickly passed in Ball's response.

(2)

Mr. Ball made some comment about the financing of the Holocaust museum. The point should have been made that the money used to construct the museum was privately raised. As to Mr. Ball's comments about the Israeli lobby, nothing, I recollect, was mentioned in the interview about the comparative activities of other lobbies in Washington.

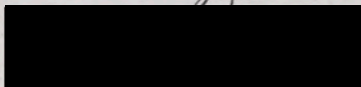
The profession of Mr. Ball's son could have been a sensitive issue during the interview. You did raise the question if Ball's son was in academia and received a negative response. A minimalist does not necessarily make an individual with a Ph.D. in history an expert in Arab-Israeli affairs. Usually, the son reflects the views of the father.

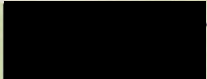
During the program, Mr. Ball kept mentioning that because he was in his eighties, he was not clear on some factual material. Because of that, and your kindness, the questions raised to him by you, I think, tended to be soft type questions with very little commentary by you to the obviously slanted views by Mr. Ball.

(3)

Again, I enjoy "Books Notes" and try to watch the program weekly. I do appreciate your interview skills and understand your role in being neutral. However, there are some times that hard questioning is needed. In the future, would you please try to get an anchor or co-anchor program who is more objective and not biased about Israel and Washington-Israeli relations.

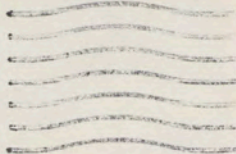
Sincerely,





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Att. Brian

