

[REDACTED]
San Luis Obispo CA 93405
March 26, 1995

Mr. Brian Lamb
C-SPAN, Suite 650
400 N. Capitol Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

never

Re: Lies My Teachers Taught Me

Dear Brian:

Author James Loewen made a monumental historial error himself on Book Notes today, when he claimed that Abraham Lincoln invented Thanksgiving Day!

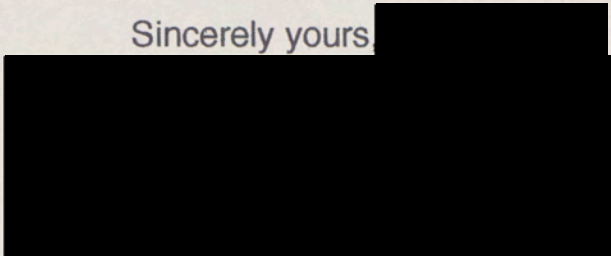
On October 3, 1789, George Washington, pursuant to a request from both houses of Congress, issued his first Thanksgiving Day Proclamation, assigning "Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the benificent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this countryAnd also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions....."

Washington issued at least one more such proclamation, on January 1, 1795. John Adams issued at least two and James Madison four. Jefferson issued none, citing constitutional objections obviously not shared by the others.

See summaries and a reprint of Washington's first proclamation in Robert L. Cord, Separation of Church and State, Historical Fact and Current Fiction, Lambeth Press 1982. Cord's footnotes cite the original sources.

Love your program. Wouldn't miss a one.

Sincerely yours

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and any text that might have followed it.