

Call-in
opinion

11-18-94

Brian Lamb

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Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb,

I generally listen to a tape I make of The Friday and Monday morning Shows and since I own neither a portable telephone or a fax machine, I am writing by old-fashioned mail and hope that my comment reaches you.

C-Span programmes represent about 75% of my TV watching. I rather read, specifically newspapers. I would also like to comment on the Lincoln-Douglas debates which were fascinating and for me, in such contrast to the kind of nasty, negative elections we've just experienced. I watched many of the debates from across the country and the comparisons in style whether Republican or Democrat were enough to make one despair.

Now I want to address my specific comment to you regarding the gentleman who called, who had recently seen a depiction of Shirer's book on the Third Reich. I do not share his gloom but since about January, 1994, my observation has been this. There have been

an interminable number of callers, mostly men (one woman from Tennessee or Kentucky referred to Clinton as Scum) who had a kind of mantra of "draft-dodging, womanizing, pot-smoking (sometimes) ~~and these show scenes~~ ^{etc} statements about the president. Perhaps the I never felt you were associating yourself with these remarks nor encouraging. My belief about you would be that you're dismayed, too.

This stirring
up of anger
does have
some passing
resemblance
to Hitler +
Goebbels
skillful
use of
propaganda.
But we
had it
before with
Joe McCarthy
& survived.

The thing that bothered me was the ^{intense} anger being expressed and as we in the counselling community have learned through experience, such expressions of anger increase rather than diminish the anger. ~~And in this way it does~~ On Wednesday this week James Carville spoke at Washington University. There was a heckler in the audience down in front with the students who shouted something about "draft dodger" Carville responded, "Oh, now I'd have to say something about Gingrich's failure to pay alimony and then it will all go down hill from there." ~~I doubt that~~ I certainly hope you won't get a mantra over the next year from the outs with stuff taken from the Wall Street Journal's presentation of Gingrich's history. For myself, his ideas are quite a good enough source of ~~discussion~~ ^{discussion}.

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One last comment on today's ~~show~~ program. I was really surprised to hear Mr. Thomasson say he hadn't seen anything like the attacks on Newt Gingrich. C-Span let me know of two academic studies, one by Jamison I think which measured the amount of negative press this president has experienced. And the Harper panel indicated to me that it's not going to change. Thank you again for the invention of C-Span

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

I apologize for this statement, but if I wait to do this properly, I'll never get this out.

[REDACTED]

St. Louis, Mo 63130