

Kenosha, WI 53142
February 16, 1998

Mr. Brian Lamb
Washington Journal
400 North Capitol Street, NW #650
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb,

Today, because many of your callers recently tend to agree with Mrs. Clinton about there being a conspiracy, you wondered aloud why so many people were coming to this conclusion. Perhaps it is not so much that people are just now coming to this conclusion, but rather are now beginning to speak out against what seems to be, if not a conspiracy, a collective effort to bring President Clinton, his wife, and the Democratic party down with innuendos, lies, and unfounded accusations being spread about and sustained by the far right conservatives and the fundamental Christians in this country.

The Religious Right and the Republican party have almost become one and the same and have been sharing the same pulpit and using the same methods to defeat their common enemies. These methods have proven to work well in local politics, so why not begin to use them against the President too. The tactics they have put into use which serve their purpose best are to barrage the public via talk shows and other media with opinions, accusations, and lies. To attack so consistently and from so many directions has made the public just a little suspicious, even to the point of believing it could be a conspiracy. It could be.

First, I have not been a life-long, die-hard Democrat. When I became old enough to vote, I voted for Richard Nixon-his second term. I voted for Republican presidential candidates through Ronald Reagan's first term and for George Bush's first term. I used to say, "when in doubt, vote Republican". Then I saw something very disturbing to me during Reagan's first term: his rubbing shoulders with the religious right. I totally freaked-out at this.

Why? It jeopardizes separation of church and state and my freedom of religion. To realize that these people are influencing our politicians is extremely scary. These people have no tolerance for anyone who thinks differently than they do and they seem to be willing to do or say anything to proceed with their religious/political agenda. Though perhaps not an out and out conspiracy, but within their individual groups, they are a well organized force of like minded people who regularly exchange

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ideas with the other groups. So why would I care about this??? It is a little frightening to think that they may succeed.

The Religious Right declares that this is a Christian nation, founded on Christian principles and their goal seems to be to make everyone conform to their beliefs - through changing the laws and even the Constitution. In order to accomplish this they must get their people into government. In order to get their people into government, the various right-winged groups have time after time used targeting as a method to defeat their opponents.

The Republican Party (big business) wants to push through its agenda and has joined forces with the Religious Right to do this. The Republicans, without the support of the Religious Right, would have few seats in Congress. The Republicans courted the Religious Right and allowed that agenda to dominate the last two Republican conventions. The line separating state and religion has been compromised.

retired I am very concerned when I hear more and more Congressmen (such as Donnemeyer) saying that there should be a display of the Ten Commandments in all classrooms. I am very concerned when a prominent person, Pat Buchanan, states at the Republican convention that "...this is a religious war..." Like many people of European ancestry, I consider freedom of religion, the right to have access to other teachings through books (freedom of the press), and freedom to freely think and express my thoughts (freedom of speech) to be my most precious rights and I don't want them tampered with.

I am not a Christian, yet agree that the philosophy has many good teachings. I have embraced metaphysical philosophy for almost thirty years, I have enjoyed mythology and Joseph Campbell's lectures on this subject; I like learning about and incorporating some of the philosophy of Hinduism and Buddhism; I have read the Nag Hammadi Library (a translation of the gnostic texts, a one-volume book edited by James M. Robinson) as well as other types of religious philosophy. The Religious Right places me and others like me in the category of Satan worshipper and their move to take power in this country is very upsetting, as a matter of fact, very frightening to me. *(We have had books stolen from our library to "protect" us from reading the wrong things)*

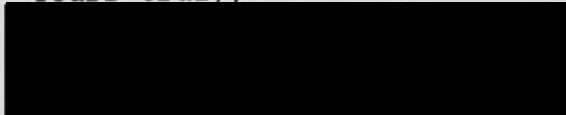
Before I saw Reagan and other Republican politicians courting the Religious Right, I viewed the Fundamentalist Christians as silly, yet benign, but they have been organizing over the years to impose their beliefs onto all the people in this country by supporting candidates who will further their agenda and targeting those who oppose them. Conspiracy??? They have even used your show as one of their means to do this. (Why did you have to split your lines up?) It's been non-stopped bashing since Clinton ran for President.

Most of the calls from these people begin with "Thank you for C-Span" (although I see other people have picked up on this, it

originated with these people). I had to laugh one day when one caller started bashing the president, but caught himself half way into his spiel to interject, "Oh, by the way, thank you for C-span", almost as if he had forgotten his lines, outlining the proper way to call C-Span. This type of call is one of the reasons I am led to believe that he and his associates read what they are to say from a Religious Right's "how to" manual. They seem to have been coached. Is this a conspiracy? If it is not, it is damn close.

In closing, one of your callers today said that he believed it might be a "conspiracy", although not necessarily one that is "connected". I gather what he meant by "not connected" is that it is not promoted from only one source, but from many. It is a conspiracy of common goals aided by organizations like the Christian Coalition, numerous fundamental Christian T.V. and radio broadcasting stations, fundamental Christian churches, and Rush Limbaugh type shows—all of which incessantly promote the same message—almost word for word.

Yours truly,



P.S.

I could go on and on about what I think about the Religious Right; it is my biggest pet peeve and my greatest fear. In short, this analogy: I liken the differences between freethinkers and the Religious Right to cooking. Some cooks only cook from scratch and enjoy shopping for and combining all the various ingredients from all over the world to create an original meal; the "Good Christians" open a box, mix it with hamburger or open a can, pour it over spaghetti and call it a meal. They buy into a canned religion and promote a packaged philosophy. I like choosing and combining my own ingredients; the food tastes better. If the Religious Right does succeed in getting a majority into government, I think there will be a bad taste in everyone's mouth and steaks won't be the only thing cooked over an open fire.

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Today the topic was "Who is your favorite President?" My favorite President is Thomas Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson in a letter to James Madison in regards to the establishment of religious freedom:

....In fact, it is comfortable to see the standard of reason at length erected, after so many ages, during which the human mind has been held in vassalage by kings, priests, and nobles; and it is honorable for us, to have produced the first legislature who had the courage to declare, that reason of man may be trusted with formation of his own opinions...(Jefferson 58).

Thomas Jefferson was decidedly in favor of religious freedom. And if one did believe in ghosts, then one would know that Jefferson is not at all happy with the Religious Right, for he made this promise: "...I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man"