

P.S. After typing this letter, your Jan. 28th program had the Times, Post and Journal people - on Jan.31st, your guests were the Providence and Baltimore paper people.

Rather eastern I'd say--

[REDACTED]
Punta Gorda, FL 33951
January 27, 1994

Mr. Brian Lamb
C Span
400 North Capitol St., NW #650
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I view your 8 to 10 A.M. program with interest. I appreciate your balanced approach to the issues.

The balance of the program itself lacks geographical guests who set across the table and who they represent. It appears for your guests to have credit, they must be associated with the Post, Times, Journal, New Yorker or L.A. Times, etc. For article references, the above papers are always selected.

There are other excellent papers and people in the West and Far West ranging from Montana to Texas and from Missouri westward. The Far East does not have a lock on what is going on in this nation. Your missing out on the rest of us. I am a recent resident to Florida, but I spent my growing and working life in the West, mainly the Rockies.

In line with my feeling is an article by Mike Royko of January 21st which reflects my position.

Yours truly,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Attachment

MIKE ROYKO / *More D.C. follies*

Inman, Safire hitting inside the Beltway



Minutes after Bobby Inman backed out as the next secretary of defense because *New York Times* columnist William Safire was mean to him, I called 10 acquaintances and did a fast poll.

I picked these 10 people because none are in the news business, politics or work for government. They are all reasonably well-educated and informed but are not news junkies. All are Midwesterners.

To each, I put the same question: "Did you read what Bill Safire wrote about Bobby Inman?"

Here are the results of that quickie poll.

Six said they didn't have any idea who Bill Safire was, although one said the name rang a faint bell. "Is he a fashion designer?"

Three said they knew Safire was a newspaper columnist and occasional TV talking head. Two of the three said he was with *The New York Times*, while one said he occasionally saw him reprinted in the *Chicago Tribune*. But none of the three had read his column on Inman.

Only one — she works in an office that subscribes to *The New York Times* — said, yes, she remembered reading Safire's column on Inman.

But she couldn't recall what it said.

"I know it was unfavorable," she said, "but I don't remember the specifics. A lot of Washington stuff is kind of nit-picky..."

I don't doubt that if my survey was expanded to 1,000 Chicagoans the results would be the same. Or 10,000 other Midwesterners, Southerners and those in the West.

With professional respect for Safire, who writes two elegant essays a week for the *New York Times* op-ed page, the overwhelming majority of Americans don't know or don't care what he says.

Even in New York, where people prefer to read about their mayors, murder, maniacs, Mets and Mario the gov, Safire isn't followed as avidly as the tabloids' blood-and-

guts columnists. Safire's primary influence is in that malicious, gossipy, back-stabbing, class-conscious, self-important little world that is Washington, D.C.

Get out a map of the U.S. Look along the East Coast. See the little dot? That's it — the nation's capital — the home or workplace for hundreds of thousands of bureaucrats, lawyers, politicians and newsies.

It's the only place in America where you sit down in a restaurant or get on an elevator and overhear someone somberly saying: "Have you heard that Bill Pffsniff might be out as third deputy undersecretary of state?" "Yes, he mishandled that position paper on Vosnogovia." "No, I hear he sneezed into the salad of the wife of the second deputy undersecretary." "My Lord, not really?" "Yes." "How sordid."

A pretty city, with fine museums, landmarks and broad boulevards, although you have to step over babbling crackheads to get around.

But it isn't reality. No city dominated by politicians, bureaucrats and newsies can reflect the rest of the country. They don't have dirty fingernails, except those clawing at a rival's back.

So it appears that Bobby Inman overreacted. He's given new meaning to the phrase "thin-skinned." He's a Texan, and I thought Texans were tough. But if he was a Chicago politician, he wouldn't last a week. In Chicago, you can call a politician a lowlife crook. But so long as you don't give evidence to a grand jury, the politician will buy lunch.

By now, millions of Americans outside the Washington Beltway are saying: "This Bobby Inman backed out because of some satire." "No, it was his attire." "Who'd he hire?" "I thought he said he was tired." "Whatever."

I read the column that Safire wrote on Dec. 23, a day, incidentally, when all newspaper readership is light because of holiday chores.

It was nasty. There's no question that Safire dislikes Inman.

As he says: "Here is someone I know

from personal experience to be manipulative and deceptive, nominated by Bill Clinton to be secretary of defense." There are two ways to take that. One way is to bust out laughing. And the other is to merely giggle.

Safire once served as an assistant to President Richard Nixon. He is still a loyal and doting friend. Who is a greater symbol of manipulation and deception than former President Sneaky? I would think that if Safire thought Inman was supremely manipulative and deceptive, he'd nominate him for president and apply for a job.

For that matter, Safire is with a newspaper that is legendary for its manipulative and deceptive work environment. At *The New York Times*, to get ahead you need more pull and clout than any Chicago fixer can provide.

Inman probably did the right thing by withdrawing. If he can't take a few shots from Safire, he shouldn't be in charge of the defense of this country.

But Safire doesn't come out smelling like a good aftershave, either. He makes it clear that he doesn't think Inman was sufficiently pro-Israel.

I happen to be pro-Israel, but since when is that a litmus test for public service?

Safire sniped: "Inman's animus later contributed to the excessive sentencing of Jonathan Pollard..."

Pollard was the government intelligence employee who sold secrets to Israel. He is in prison. If I had been the judge, he would not be in prison. I'd have had him shot. But, then, I've always had an extremist attitude toward treason.

If there is any message in the Inman-Safire story, it is this: We shouldn't take it too seriously. Inman isn't as important as he thinks he is, and Safire isn't as important as Inman or Safire believe.

We'll all get up this morning and get on with our lives despite these distractions. Really, what Washington needs is a Major League Baseball team. Take their minds off silliness.

Sound Advice

AUDIO ■ VIDEO ■ CAR STEREO

Don't Pay a Penny
'Til 1995

20th Annual TV/Big Screen

twelve months

On Mitsubishi TVs, big screens and VCRs

NO



PAYMENTS



INTEREST



MONEY

Apply for your Mitsubishi Three Diamond Card today and do

Just in time for the Super Bowl
get No Interest and No Payments
for 12 Months Financing** on all
Mitsubishi big screens. For example:

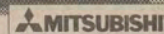


You can't overlook the super pricing and convenience of No Interest and No Payments for 12 Months on this new Mitsubishi "Slim Cabinet" 45" big screen that features Picture-In-Picture when connected to a VCR. Satisfaction guaranteed. Suggested Price \$3000 VS4561

\$2299⁹⁵
OR \$82 A MONTH*

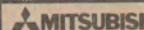
We've blitzed the competition with great prices and No Pay

Nobody in Florida beats our price or No Interest and No Payments for 12 Months Financing on this new Mitsubishi 20" stereo TV with full-function remote control. Satisfaction guaranteed. Suggested Price \$450 CS20201



\$359⁹⁵
OR \$15 A MONTH*

You're looking at an unbeatable price and No Interest and No Payments for 12 Months Financing on this new Mitsubishi 26" stereo digital monitor/receiver with Picture-In-Picture when connected to a VCR. Satisfaction guaranteed. Suggested Price \$700 CS26301



\$599⁹⁵
OR \$22 A MONTH*



No Payments or Interest for 12 Months is proof that you don't have to spend a lot



You are looking at the best price anywhere and No Interest and No Payments for 12 Months Financing on

[REDACTED]
Punta Gorda, FL 33951



Mr. Brian Lamb
C-Span
400 North Capitol St., NW #650
Washington, D.C. 20001