

CC: T. Murphy ✓
S. Trahern ✓

January 26, 1991

C-Span
400 North Capitol Street, #650
Washington, D. C.

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Re: Comments

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Sirs:

I have tried unsuccessfully at sporadic intervals over a period of a month to reach you, but cannot afford to wait for consecutive 36 hours for success. Letters sent to the Washington Post and to the Washington Times with my concerns about the war and peace protests are unpublished. I write you therefore, in the hope that you will broadcast my views.

ON THE REASONS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT BUSH FOR PLUNGING THIS NATION INTO WAR:

1. To preserve the American way of life (an oil-based economy)
2. To save jobs (in oil-producing countries)
3. To force evil Saddam Hussein to obey United Nations resolutions (dictated by George Bush, incidentally)
 - a. Release hostages
 - b. Stop the invasion of Saudi Arabia
 - c. Expel Hussein from Kuwait
 - d. Restore Kuwaiti government

Of all the arguments pro and con on these points, I have heard only one congresswoman recently returned from the Middle East address the heart of the matter. The heart of the matter is that there is an emotional enduring bond of hatred and jealousy among all the nations of the middle east--including Israel--a bond existing over 4000 years since when they were all tribes in the desert. From time to time these hatreds flare up into hostilities and atrocities. The Amnesty International report which President Bush read with such horror might have been a report on actions of Israel in Lebanon and in earlier actions. Recall, for example, how a man who assassinated Robert Kennedy was reacting to a statement made by the presidential candidate to protect Israel after he had witnessed in terror an Israeli soldier plunge a sword into his sister's abdomen. Saddam Hussein is no worse than the best of his brothers and cousins in the family of nations in the middle east. Like other families which feud, they resent interference from outsiders like the United States. They love to hate and fight each other. The children of the United States, therefore, should not be sacrificed to defend or offend any one of these mideast nations. For us it is an unjust war. Our children should be brought home.

President Bush has used the office of the Presidency to dupe the public into support for his war with Saddam Hussein, which King's war has been expanded by his propaganda promotion of a "New World Order" to include enough nations in the United Nations to make of the conflict a World War III. Another no-win war.

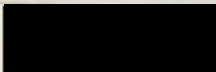
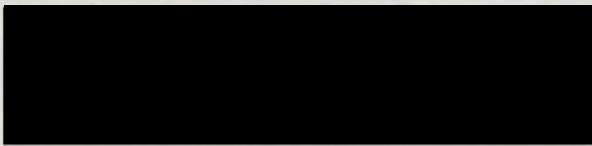
ON THE PEACE PROTESTS:

At the end of the peace rally shown today on C-Span one of the singers said that he is one of those who do not vote in this country. It is true that the Constitution allows free speech. It is also true that it allows everyone the right to vote. Martin Luther King marched to gain that right for thousands who had been denied that right. Now that that right has been confirmed to everyone, and everyone has three representatives and a president, no one should protest governmental action unless he/she has exhausted all recourse to their representatives in government.

Mindful that only 49% of eligible voters actually participate in election processes, it is only fair that only that 49% be allowed to exercise the first amendment rights of free speech in the form of protests. To make demonstrations more relevant and responsible a mechanism should be devised to insure that every prospective demonstrator must show a voter registration card. Justice demands that only constituents be allowed to protest the decisions and policies of their elected representatives. That protestor, therefore, who claimed that he does not vote has no relevance in any protest demonstration. Even though those who vote are forced to choose sometimes between the lesser of two or more perceived evils, they do accept the responsibility and take the courage to exercise that prerogative. It is cowardly to choose, "none of the above." It is dastardly to protest the decisions made by representatives of the electorate when one is not a part of that electorate.

I am a conservative Republican, a grandmother of a black soldier in the 82nd Airborne. I do not subscribe to the argument that the whole situation is racially motivated. I believe that President Bush cares no more for the whites than the blacks in the military; no less for the blacks than the whites. He seems eager to sacrifice all of them to his egomaniacal pride. This is not a politically partisan issue. It has become a moral issue.

Sincerely,



Forestville, MD 20747