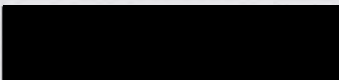


April 3, 1998

Mr. Bryan Lamb
CSPAN Radio 90
400 North Capitol Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

0-WESP
RADIO


Potomac, Maryland 20854

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I listened with interest about two weeks ago to the CSPAN Radio Book Note interview with Howard Kurtz of the Washington Post, author of the new book, Spin Cycle. Mr. Kurtz confirmed my impression that many reporters distrust and dislike the Clinton White House because of its unceasing and often successful efforts to present the President in the best light by fending off their unfavorable and hostile inquiries.

Mr. Kurtz, who seemed to me to be reasonably objective, agreed with a caller that many in the press corps are mystified, hurt and troubled by the current public attitude toward the President and the press. Why, to paraphrase Mr. Kurtz, are so many citizens "in denial" about the low state of the President's sexual and campaign-finance mores and so ready to kill the media messengers who have devoted such untiring efforts to exposing alleged Clinton misdeeds? In this letter I attempt to answer this question. **If even one reporter gains new understanding from this letter about why many citizens prefer the President to the press I shall have accomplished my purpose in writing to CSPAN Radio.**

Mr. Clinton won two national elections for President of the United States. Many voters like myself were aware of his weakness for women and his "con man" tendencies. We had to weigh these weaknesses against what we feared **and continue to fear** from the other side: Government for the rich, anti-abortion fanaticism, favorable treatment of cigarette companies, survival of the "fittest" economic policies, privatization of social insurance, profiteering from pollution of the environment, a gun in Everyman's top drawer, and in general a rollback to the kind of government that was in the saddle before the New Deal--indeed, before the time of Teddy Roosevelt!

When the media devote almost all of their efforts to sexual scandals involving the President, we citizens are concerned that you are trying to impeach the legitimate decisions under the Constitution of the United States that we voters made at the polls in the Presidential elections of 1992 and 1996. We didn't elect a Republican as President. Nobody voted for Special Persecutor, Kenneth Starr. With fore-knowledge we elected a flawed Bill Clinton! Please give us the respect we are due and sufficient credit for weighing values and priorities in selecting **the least objectionable alternative offered to us for President.**

Most Americans don't think that sexual relations between consenting adults, or failure to relate the true details to Sam Donaldson, or even to a Grand Jury convened for the Special Persecutor, ought to be a matter of grave public concern--certainly not a concern in the same league with the proposed reversal of progressive taxation, or the return of women to their

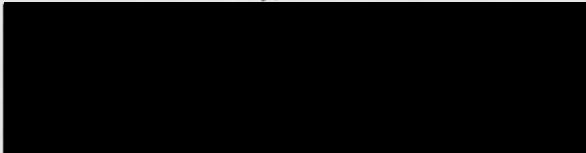
previous choices between an unwanted pregnancy and a back-alley abortion. If Mr. Clinton forced his attentions on an unwilling woman that **is** a concern, but we'd like to see the allegation proved in a court of law--not rumored in the media, or assumed to be valid solely on the basis of the statements of one party.

We **are** concerned about campaign finance abuse, but tell us: Who opposes campaign finance reform? How can an ordinary citizen afford to run for Congress or the Presidency? Is national political office reserved for the rich? How much money is in Republican coffers and how much in Democratic Party coffers for campaigns for national office and who has "donated" that money? How can a person of moderate income who holds office afford the legal expertise needed to defend himself from calumny?

Listen, CSPAN Radio 90, tell all your buddies that when the public perceives that the press demonstrates a greater passion for fair play to the average American and a greater concern for the welfare and stability of our Union than the President we'll all be pro-Press. It wouldn't be hard to demonstrate such passion and concern in comparison to an opportunistic, flawed President, but you won't succeed if you remain mired in supermarket, tabloid journalism!

One final word: I like CSPAN Radio very much!

Sincerely,



cc: Mr. Howard Kurtz
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20071