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cc: S. Trahern

November 19, 1990

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C-Span TV Programs
Suite 650
400 North Capitol Street
Washington, DC 20001

ATTN: Mr. Brian Lamb, Newscaster

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I enjoy your interviews on C-Span. I think you are insightful, and concise. I find you courteous to callers even when they apparently don't want you to be! Good Job!

I like C-Span!

Last week, 11/15, or 11/16, another interviewer, an older gentlemen, interviewed a handsome redhead who espoused what he called the conservative cause.

I tried to call in but the lines were busy. Please pass this comment on to the interviewer.

The redheaded gentlemen is not a conservative in the classical sense, rather, he is a reactionary - one who wishes to go back.

He complains that the "media" is controlled by some vague left-wing conspiracy! Just imagine Mr. Gannett, or Mr. Ridder, or Mrs. Graham, as "left wingers!" Anyway, that's his thesis.

He then proceeds to build on that wrong premise to the notion that fair play dictates "balance." By "balance," he means that people who share his point of view be given "equal time." I guess he got that idea from the FCC rule regarding political speech access on the electronic media.

The source of his problem is that very few educated people share his reactionary point of view. That's his problem, not theirs, but he's out to make it their problem if left to his devices. Very superficially, his argument for balance has a certain sound of merit. On close examination, it has no merit at all.

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William F. Buckley, Jr., is the patriarch of conservative writers. Lexicographers' interest aside, Mr. Buckley is very predictable philosophically and unfortunately, Mr. Buckley treads lightly with the truth. Never accept a "Buckley" premise to be true or as he represents it! I actually heard him called to task for inventing a quote out of whole cloth when he ran for the Senate many years ago, by an opponent who had written the book and who knew what was in his own book. Mr. Buckley apparently did not think his opponent would remember or know what was in his own book. That's bold, though! (I wonder if that was Freudian?)

James J. Kilpatrick, a humble and kind gentlemen, I call a "blue collar W.F. Buckley." Mr. Kilpatrick never had an original thought, to my best knowledge and belief.

It's my opinion that after WW2, the major newspapers were staffed by "liberal" writers and columnists, and the owners of the papers ran both Mr. Buckley's column and Mr. Kilpatrick's to appease their right wing readers and their advertisers.

(Ask the ghost of Harry Truman what political persuasion the owners of the nation's papers lean toward!)

Which brings us back to the problem.

Who does not believe that Mrs. Graham, for example, would not run the redheaded gentleman's writings if that would increase readership (read advertising revenue?) Mrs. Graham is first a businesswoman, then a civic leader or whatever, but she protects the revenues of the Washington Post first! (And who would not?)

The right wing writers are mainly ideologues. That is, they know the answer before you know the question. Take Cal Thomas for example. If you read two or three of his columns, you have it all! There's nothing else to know about him. No matter what problem you mention, Mr. Thomas applies the same answer. This is not to say the liberals like James Reston, or Ellen Goodman, or Anthony Lewis, or others have the right answer, but they use logic, reason, and facts!

Facts are something the right wing writers are distinctly short on! Re Ollie North! Or remember Richard Nixon!

If interviewers are not alert, the redheaded gentlemen will continue his attempt to gain access to the "media" based not on

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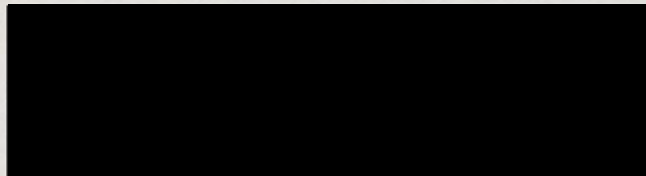
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his competitive ability or talent, but by some strange notion that "balance" means his side is to have equal space and time to advance their old, worn out agenda. Watch this argument! The average man thinks it is a reasonable position.

Finally, a comment. Why do people think that if you have one point of view on a subject, that the media has been fair or balanced by allowing an opposing point of view to be aired? Both points of view could be wrong! Merely allowing a different point of view to be aired does not assure objectivity. It just quiets the dissenters. Of course, that has some merit!

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

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 me