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Worldnet USIA Television
Patrick Henry Building
601 D Street, N.W.
Washington DC USA

Attention: Mr. Brian Lamb

Dear Brian,

As Scandinavian European I take the liberty of addressing you on friendly terms. I also wish to congratulate you on your show, which is most interesting with all these interesting guests you have.

The number of calls you receive from Europe is sometimes astonishingly high despite of the times difference. Anyway, when you had guests from CZECHOSLOVAKIA you received many calls from Sweden and I also tried to phone in but unfortunately too late.

Your questions to the Swedish callers were, however, so interesting and to the point that I now afterwards should like to comment on matters as I also feel that Sweden did not really answer your questions or at least very poorly.

Swedish callers suggested to have Sweden taken as a model for Czechoslovakia. Really not bad. You asked why and got for an answer the high standard of social security etc. You asked about taxes, which are high, but the callers really could not explain why their system is really better.

WE DO KNOW that for Czechoslovakia anything will be better than the terrible, inhumane communist regime they have had.

I could have suggested FINLAND as model, which of course is very similar to the Swedish model, taxes perhaps lower, but what do you get for paying taxes? For example, and I can come up just with examples, because explaining the entire system is impossible, our school children have everything for free: every pen, book, copy-book, atlas and one warm meal at school every day. I think they have also the same advantages in Sweden, but what other state in Western Europe offers the same? I think none. I as a bank employee have 7.5 weeks of annual holiday (vacation) with full salary and on top of that a holiday salary. Everybody in Finland has a holiday salary and 6 weeks holidays as a minimum. Holidays get longer with the years you have served.

BUT, Brian, I think it is wrong to tell the Czechoslovaks to take this or that West European state for a model. The truth lies much more in the EES (European Economic Space), which your show has not as yet dealt with - I almost should say, unfortunately. Americans know very little or

nothing about the EES, which probably is the next enlarged step to a United Europe. The EC (European Community) and the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) have been negotiating on EES, this United West European Area for several years and matters have been approved already on high level. Finland and Sweden have been pushing hard, but Switzerland and Austria had some problems. Austria's problem was the transit traffic, I believe. Somehow it appears strange or ridiculous that Austria with 'problems' of that sort has nevertheless applied for full membership in the EC. It stands nevertheless to reason that the EES will have an entirely liberalised movement of goods, capital, services and labour. We here in Scandinavia (5 states) have enjoyed a free labour market already for 25 years. Movement of goods and capital transfers are very integrated in the entire EES. One must admit that EC directives have been dominant in the integration talks.

THIS is what Czechoslovakia has to look forward to - the EES or whatever it is called later-on when integration goes on and on.

Some 'East' Wuropean states like Hungary have been talking about joining the EFTA. Not a bad idea - for them. Realistically this is not yet possible, they have to wotk on their shiftover to a market economy. Hungary has done this pretty well, but is very heavily indebted.

I do hope, Brian, you will come up with a programme on EES. Perhaps you could let me know about it, because usually I come home too late to watch.

With my best personal wishes

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Finland