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Letters, May 1982 (2 of 2)
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25 MAY 1982

Friday May 21, 1982
Christopher J. Burke
2610 Wilhama Drive
S.S. Md. 20906

Kenneth Cribb
~~Deputy Counselor to the President,~~
White House,
Wash. D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Cribb:

Please take two minutes of your time to read my letter. I would like to say a few words about the enforcement and preservation of the Fairness Doctrine.

It seems that Mark Fowler, head of the FCC, believes that the Fairness Doctrine is an unfair burden to the people who operate radio and tv stations. He thinks that radio and tv stations, who hold the vast majority of the public's attention, should have the right to be biased, unfair and misleading. He believes they have a right to

slander, lie, conject stories at will, and air these stories, conjected though they are, with the full intent and understanding that they will be accepted as truth by the vast majority of viewers. He believes they have a right to conject these stories for the political purpose of manipulating public opinion.

If it were completely understood by all those who have a radio or tv that these stories are political statements, things might be different. But these stories are not broadcast as political statements. They are aired as the truth! Therefore, one is not immediately inclined to doubt their veracity.

As the name of the Fairness Doctrine implies, it is not only fair, but necessary that both sides (accuser and accused) of these controversial issues be

aired. People are almost always the object of these programs, and even under criminal prosecution they have the right to defend themselves.

Yet the media would have it that they be able to slander or accuse whomever they wish, even going so far as a conviction, without allowing the accused to defend himself. In the name of the justice which is the Hallmark of this country, the accused must be allowed to defend himself. Time and time again, it has been demonstrated that the TV networks contrive stories. They have repeatedly lied to slander someone whose views oppose their own.

President Reagan is a good case in point. His interest in the protection of the truly needy is being completely turned around by CBS, with such stories as

"People like us," which was aired April 21. The program centered around three case studies of poor families, which were supposed to show that Reagan had not kept his word on the "safety net" for the truly needy. The first case blamed Reagan for a law passed in the Carter Administration, having to do with Social Security Disability reviews. In the second case, CBS left the viewers with the impression that a Reagan Administration policy was responsible for a teary eyed mother having her bedridden daughter transferred from home care, to an institution which would cost the taxpayers much more than her medicaid-paid outpatient treatment at home. No such policy exists. The transfer was unnecessary.

In the third case, CBS clearly showed that the "safety net" was

indeed working, however, they intended to show it was damaging to the poor.

As David Gergen pointed out, no effort was made to include an Administration spokesman. An Administration request for one half hour air time to refute the above slander, yielded an arrogant refusal.

This is as far from justice as this country had better get, ever. Unless the Fairness Doctrine is preserved and enforced, we will be in serious trouble. The public will be at the hands of an unjust, deceitful media, who will not allow truth unless it suits them, and who will allow no opposing views (1984?). Our great country is based on freedom of speech and the right to a fair trial. The Fairness Doctrine ensures this. Please do what

6
you can to see that is preserved
and enforced.

God bless you in your efforts,

Christopher J. Burke

Mrs. Winthrop Cook
Starboard Lane, Osterville, Massachusetts 02655

Dear President Reagan,
I was shocked
when CBS refused to give
you time for rebuttal to
"People Like Us." I subscribe
to the AIM Report and after
reading it, was amazed
that the station would air
a program so riddled
with inaccuracies - a
Euphemism for downright
lies. The Fairness Doctrine

must be enforced at all times.
Whose side is Mark Fowler
on? He surely does not
seem to be on your side!

Also where is Philip Nicolaides?
I was so pleased when I learned
through "Human Events" that he
was to strengthen the KSA---
and then "Ham"! I read
a "Carter holdover" fires him!
Can't you get rid of these
people who are sniping at
you and through you at our
Country? The American
people, en masse, voted
for you - now we are

Mrs. Winthrop Cook
Starboard Lane, Osterville, Massachusetts 02655

Treated to slanted news
casts, blocking of your
programs at every turn,
and people in your own
party saying you must raise
taxes! No way.

Hang tough Mr. President
the rank and file of Americans
believe in you. We are sick
and tired of "Tax & Spend," far
left liberals and the Intelligence
who think they know what is
best for all of us, and how

our money should be spent.
as my dear little Dad would
have said "Educated beyond
their intelligence". He also
said the United Nations was
becoming a propaganda
forum for the Russians
and the Third World-- so it
seems.

Here's to you -

"God bless"

Sincerely,

Marjella E. Cook

May 15-'82

20 MAY 1982

Four Winds 1163 Chain Bridge Road McLean, Virginia 22101

18 May 1982

Mr. Kenneth Cribb.
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Cribb -
I am shocked to hear that
The White House advocates
elimination of the Media
Fair Practices Act.

At a time when C.B.S. has
arrogantly refused equal
time to the Reagan
Administration for rebuttal
to the lies & innuendoes on

its program "People like Us"
you should be invoking
the Fair Practices Act -
NOT destroying it.

Equal access to The
Media is the sine qua non
for democracy.

WHY are you NOT
requiring this for your
own Administration??

yours sincerely

Ruth Eakin

Mrs. Leroy Eakin, Jr.
1163 Chain Bridge Rd.
McLean, VA 22101

19 MAY 1982

May 16, 1982

2 Glenhill Rd

Troy, N.Y. 12180

Mr. Kenneth Criss

Deputy Counselor to the President
White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Sir:

As a reader of the "Aim Report", I agree that the time has come for the President to start enforcing the "fairness doctrine" and I strongly support the position that the FCC should be directed to start enforcing it instead of trying to abolish it. It's time that the news media began to be held accountable for grossly misrepresenting the facts, and be required either to be more objective or to permit equal time for the opposing view.

Very truly yours,

John J. Green

21 MAY 1982

MARSHALL L. AUSTIN

Oil and Gas Leases

1012 NINTH STREET • PHONE (405) 256-2791
WOODWARD, OKLAHOMA 73801

May 18, 1982

Kenneth Cribb, Deputy Counselor
to the President,
Whitehouse,
Washington, D.C. 20500.

Dear Mr. Cribb,

I just read Accuracy in Media's report of May 11. It seems like about 80 to 90 per cent of the media people in the United States lean towards the left. I can see no reason why we should not be equal time to the President when you have a slanted program on CBS called "People Like Us." If the Bill Moyers thinks that objection is objective reporting, he ought to be sent to Moscow and on to Siberia for a little while and maybe he could write something objective about that.

One of the problems is some of the President's appointees. People like Mark Fowler, Head of the Federal Communications Commission, should be removed from office. At least he should be visited by the President. If he starts thinking like the President, he would enforce the fairness doctrine and give equal time to the President, instead of trying to do away with the equal time provision.

Very truly yours,


Marshall L. Austin

MLA:pjn

24 MAY 1982

ALBERT S. HOWE, JR.
43 PRINCE'S PINE ROAD
NORWALK, CONN. 06850
—
AREA CODE 203 - 853-1733

May 19, 1982

Mr. Kenneth Cribb
Deputy Counselor to the President
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Sir:

I have just read the Accuracy in Media Report dated May 11, 1982 and write to advise that I think the Fairness Doctrine should be preserved and enforced by the F.C.C.

I see no reason why stations like C.B.S. and reporters like Bill Moyers should be allowed to make inaccurate and misleading statements without rebuttal.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A.S. Howe, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

ASH/ews

1982

Eric R Kemmeyer
90 Stone Maring
RTS John's Is., S.C.
29455

18 May 1982

Kenneth Cribb
Deputy Counselor To The President
White House, Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Sir,

I believe that the Fairness Doctrine is highly important to ensure that public networks present fair and accurate presentations. Such shows as "People Like Us" by CBS demonstrate that the networks are not inclined to police themselves. I most strongly urge that you work to preserve and actively enforce the Fairness Doctrine.

Yours,

Eric R Kemmeyer

24 MAY 1982

Mrs. Lawrence E. Pence
1835 No. Powhatan Street
Arlington, VA 22205

May 22, 1982

Kenneth Cribb
Deputy Counselor to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Cribb:

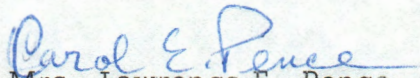
Re the Fairness Doctrine.

I do not understand how a program such as "People Like Us" presented by CBS recently, can go unchallenged. As you know, The Washington Post had a prominently displayed article on this program prior to its broadcast, its author, Tom Shales, was interviewed on WRC Radio, followed by comments from an individual, whose name I have forgotten, on the same show (Tom Braden's). Subsequent to its broadcast, information showing the falseness of this CBS program has surfaced. Why is CBS allowed to present such a program as a "documentary" when it is full of innuendo and is far from the truth?

I would also like to know why the Democrats are allowed to present a "rebuttal" to President Reagan's Saturday radio talks. I can understand equal time during a Presidential campaign, but I do not think that each and every time President Reagan broadcasts, that the opposition should be allowed to "rebut". If they want time, let them pay for it. The President is the President and should not be followed by Democrats' replies, especially when they don't really know what to reply to. It is just free time for them to air their propaganda that got this country into the present mess.

If we have a fairness doctrine, then I urge that we force radio and television to comply with it.

Sincerely,


Mrs. Lawrence E. Pence

24 MAY 1982

THOMAS R. BUSARD, M.D.

5050 18TH AVENUE WEST
BRADENTON, FLORIDA 33529

TELEPHONE: (813) 792-4324

May 19, 1982

Mr. Kenneth Cribb
Deputy Counselor to the President
White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Cribb:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have written to C.B.S., which is self explanatory.

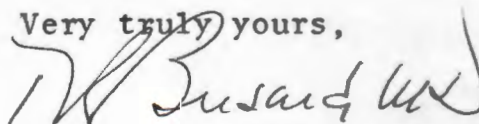
If Reaganomics is to work it must not be undermined successfully by its major enemy, the media.

We can't do much about the New York Times or the Washington Post. But we do have the Fairness Doctrine, for the electronic media.

Your job is to attempt to enforce the Fairness Doctrine. The future of a free capitalistic America may depend on how well you do your duty.

Please don't fail us. Or President Reagan.

Very truly yours,



Thomas R. Busard, M.D.

TRB/b

THOMAS R. BUSARD, M.D.

5050 18TH AVENUE WEST
BRADENTON, FLORIDA 33529

TELEPHONE: (813) 792-4324

May 19, 1982

Mr. Van Gordon Sauter, President
C.B.S. News
524 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Sauter:

Recently I have abstained from viewing many C.B.S. "news" programs, since they are frequently nothing more than ultra-left-wing propaganda. As a result, I did not see "People Like Us," the liberal attack on Reaganomics presented by Bill Moyers, on April 21st.

Since many of my friends saw copies of letters I wrote to C.B.S. (and certain sponsors of "Central America in Revolt" and "The Lou Grant Show") several of those friends who did see "People Like Us" suggested I write you about that program. I refused on the ground that I didn't know the content.

Now, however, I do, thanks to Accuracy in Media, Inc. Hence this letter, which I will copy to the advertisers.

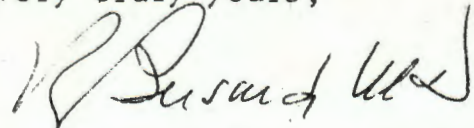
It appears my friends who complained were right. C.B.S. again proved it has no regard for facts, that it is a philosophical enemy of capitalism and that it is primarily a left-wing ultra-liberal political organization in its News and Public Information Departments.

Free capitalistic America is faced with a deadly enemy. That enemy is the socialistic media, of which C.B.S. is a pivotal part. Bill Moyers has always been an ultra-liberal, of course, but now the C.B.S. organization has apparently given him free rein.

Apparently the only defense will be economic pressure applied by advertisers. I shall post a copy of this letter in the physician lounges in my city so my fellow physicians can attempt to apply their own brand of economic pressure to your advertisers, so they in turn can apply it to C.B.S.

"Lou Grant" is now off the air. Maybe Bill Moyers is vulnerable. We hope so.

Very truly yours,



Thomas R. Busard, M.D.

TRB/h
CC: President Reagan
AIM
Advertisers



W. CLARK

25 MAY 1982

Dear Mr. President,

I bitterly resent the CBS program "People like Us." It is an unfair, biased and untrue account of the efforts of your administration.

The FCC should do something about it but they will not because Mark Fowlen "fouls" up the works. The fairness doctrine exist to be used and Mr. Fowlen is not enforcing the law.

Very Truly Yours,
Weldon H. Clark.

A member of

Black & Decker Apollo Lunar Surface Drill

development team

25 May 1982

2757 SOUTH IVES STREET
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202

May 23, 1982

Mr. Kenneth Cribb
Deputy Counselor to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Cribb:

I am writing to request that the Reagan Administration take strong action to (1) see that the Fairness Doctrine is complied with by those who have been given the privilege of operating radio and TV stations, and (2) oppose the repeal of that provision of the law.

In my opinion, Bill Moyers' documentary "People Like Us" clearly demonstrates how radio and TV can be an unfair and destructive tool in the hands of a politician posing as a journalist. The Fairness Doctrine should be enforced and preserved.

Sincerely,



Walter L. Baumann

24 MAY 1982

LAW OFFICES

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VILLARD MARTIN
(1889-1965)

GARRETT LOGAN
(1901-1975)

May 21, 1982

Kenneth Cribb
Deputy Counselor to the President
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Enforcement and Preservation of the Fairness Doctrine

Dear Mr. Cribb:

I am enclosing copies of letters I have written to some of the sponsors of "People Like Us". I hope that may do some good and certainly I would like to have you pass on to the White House my feelings about such irresponsible tactics.

Sincerely,



Donald P. Moyers

DPM:djd

Enclosures

LAW OFFICES

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VILLARD MARTIN
(1889-1965)

GARRETT LOGAN
(1901-1975)

May 21, 1982

COPY

W. Clark Wescoe, Chairman
Sterling Drug, Inc.
90 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Mr. Wescoe:

I am deeply disturbed to find that you are one of the sponsors of Bill Moyers' recent documentary "People Like Us" which was so sensationally untrue and obviously produced to try to influence people in the wrong direction. This represents total dishonesty on the part of CBS and particularly their refusal to grant equal time to set the record straight with respect to the three cases they outlined in Moyers' presentation.

Surely we all realize the undue influence that the media is trying to exercise on the people of this country and I cannot believe that you want to be a part of that when it does not represent the truth. I would like to suggest that as a sponsor you put appropriate pressure on CBS to either set this record straight or grant equal time to present the other side of the story which is the truth, not what has been presented.

This country is locked in a real struggle to try to get back on the program that represents what America is and we ought to be doing everything we can to accomplish that purpose. We have gone the wrong direction for a long time. I hope you will take appropriate action.

Yours truly,

Donald P. Moyers

DPM:djd

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TELEPHONE
582-5281
AREA CODE 918

VILLARD MARTIN
(889-1985)

GARRETT LOGAN
(901-1975)

May 21, 1982

Christopher C. Browne, Sr. V.P.
Holiday Inns, Inc.
3796 Lamar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38195

COPY

Dear Mr. Browne:

I am deeply disturbed to find that you are one of the sponsors of Bill Moyers' recent documentary "People Like Us" which was so sensationally untrue and obviously produced to try to influence people in the wrong direction. This represents total dishonesty on the part of CBS and particularly their refusal to grant equal time to set the record straight with respect to the three cases they outlined in Moyers' presentation.

Surely we all realize the undue influence that the media is trying to exercise on the people of this country and I cannot believe that you want to be a part of that when it does not represent the truth. I would like to suggest that as a sponsor you put appropriate pressure on CBS to either set this record straight or grant equal time to present the other side of the story which is the truth, not what has been presented.

This country is locked in a real struggle to try to get back on the program that represents what America is and we ought to be doing everything we can to accomplish that purpose. We have gone the wrong direction for a long time. I hope you will take appropriate action.

Yours truly,

Donald P. Moyers

DPM:djd

LAW OFFICES

MOYERS, MARTIN, CONWAY, SANTEE & IMEL

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TELEPHONE
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May 21, 1982

VILLARD MARTIN
(1889-1965)

GARRETT LOGAN
(1901-1975)

James Ferguson, Chairman
General Foods Corp.
250 North Street
White Plains, NY 10625

COPY

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

I am deeply disturbed to find that you are one of the sponsors of Bill Moyers' recent documentary "People Like Us" which was so sensationally untrue and obviously produced to try to influence people in the wrong direction. This represents total dishonesty on the part of CBS and particularly their refusal to grant equal time to set the record straight with respect to the three cases they outlined in Moyers' presentation.

Surely we all realize the undue influence that the media is trying to exercise on the people of this country and I cannot believe that you want to be a part of that when it does not represent the truth. I would like to suggest that as a sponsor you put appropriate pressure on CBS to either set this record straight or grant equal time to present the other side of the story which is the truth, not what has been presented.

This country is locked in a real struggle to try to get back on the program that represents what America is and we ought to be doing everything we can to accomplish that purpose. We have gone the wrong direction for a long time. I hope you will take appropriate action.

Yours truly,

Donald P. Moyers

DPM:djd

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TELEPHONE
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VILLARD MARTIN
(1889-1965)
GARRETT LOGAN
(1901-1975)

May 21, 1982

R. Hal Dean, Chairman
Ralston Purina Co.
835 South 8th Street
St. Louis, MO 63102

COPY

Dear Mr. Dean:

I am deeply disturbed to find that you are one of the sponsors of Bill Moyers' recent documentary "People Like Us" which was so sensationally untrue and obviously produced to try to influence people in the wrong direction. This represents total dishonesty on the part of CBS and particularly their refusal to grant equal time to set the record straight with respect to the three cases they outlined in Moyers' presentation.

Surely we all realize the undue influence that the media is trying to exercise on the people of this country and I cannot believe that you want to be a part of that when it does not represent the truth. I would like to suggest that as a sponsor you put appropriate pressure on CBS to either set this record straight or grant equal time to present the other side of the story which is the truth, not what has been presented.

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Yours truly,

Donald P. Moyers

DPM:djd

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DOUGLAS B. VOILES

TELEPHONE
582-5281
AREA CODE 918

May 21, 1982

VILLARD MARTIN
(1989-1985)
GARRETT LOGAN
(1901-1975)

Bernard Fauber, Chairman
K-Mart Corporation
3100 W. Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084

COPY

Dear Mr. Fauber:

I am deeply disturbed to find that you are one of the sponsors of Bill Moyers' recent documentary "People Like Us" which was so sensationally untrue and obviously produced to try to influence people in the wrong direction. This represents total dishonesty on the part of CBS and particularly their refusal to grant equal time to set the record straight with respect to the three cases they outlined in Moyers' presentation.

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Yours truly,

Donald P. Moyers

DPM:djd

LAW OFFICES

MOYERS, MARTIN, CONWAY, SANTEE & IMEL

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VILLARD MARTIN
(1889-1965)

GARRETT LOGAN
(1901-1975)

May 21, 1982

John W. Culligan, Chairman
American Home Products Corp.
685 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

COPY

Dear Mr. Culligan:

I am deeply disturbed to find that you are one of the sponsors of Bill Moyers' recent documentary "People Like Us" which was so sensationally untrue and obviously produced to try to influence people in the wrong direction. This represents total dishonesty on the part of CBS and particularly their refusal to grant equal time to set the record straight with respect to the three cases they outlined in Moyers' presentation.

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Yours truly,

Donald P. Moyers

DPM:djd

27 MAY 1982

Dear President Reagan:

I strongly urge you to veto all further funding and authority for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) which uses taxpayers' money to fund leftist causes.

Your economic and defense program will not be taken seriously if your administration continues to approve Federal grants to Left-wing groups that oppose everything you stood for in your 1980 campaign.

- ** I supported your budget cuts and I object to NEH giving my tax dollars to Big Labor groups, such as the ILGWU, that oppose your economic program.
- ** I supported your increase in defense spending and I object to NEH using my taxes to fund unilateral disarmament groups, such as the "SANE" Education Fund.
- ** I agree with your Interior Secretary James Watt and I object to NEH giving my tax dollars to environmental extremists in groups like the Sierra Club.
- ** I agree with you on the importance of the American family and I object to NEH using my tax dollars to help radicals in the Feminist Radio Network.

By funding liberal and leftist activities (and groups like the Council on Foreign Relations) with my tax dollars, NEH is making me think that the 1980 elections didn't count for as much as they should.

Respectfully,

Beatrice S. Pugh
(signature)

Buckham Drive
(city, state)

Alpine, N.J. 07620

P. S. Please forward to the appropriate ^{agency} my comments on the above matter and also note my objection to the lax enforcement of the Fairness Doctrine by Mr. Mark Fowler, head of the FCC, as witness the disgraceful refusal to permit rebuttal of Bill Moyers' "People Like Us".

27 MAY 1982

LAWRENCE CRANBERG, PH.D.
CONSULTING PHYSICIST

1205 CONSTANT SPRINGS DR.
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746
(512) 327-1794

May 24, 1982

Reed Irvine
Accuracy in Media
1341 G ST., N. W.,
Suite 312
Washington, D. C. 20005

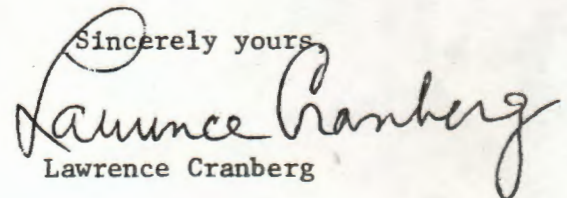
Dear Reed,

I enclose copies of two letters sent to Tom Griffith of TIME just before your May II number arrived with its excellent coverage of Bill Moyers. I shall certainly write to the advertisers you named.

You might check my recollection of Moyers' first broadcast on the CBS Evening News in his recent role of commentator. I am virtually certain that he called himself a "populist". Whether that word is spelled with a small "p" or a capital "P", it is a political, not a professional allegiance, and clearly raises the issue of Fairness Doctrine.

I hope you will press the Fairness Doctrine question as you have said you would, with all possible legal clout. Moyers and CBS are challenging the country's journalistic standards and traditions, and must be called to account.

Sincerely yours,


Lawrence Cranberg

Encls.

cc: Kenneth Crib, Deputy Counsellor to the President. White House, Washington, D. C.

LAWRENCE CRANBERG, Ph.D.

CONSULTING PHYSICIST

1205 CONSTANT SPRINGS DR.
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746
(512) 327-1794

May 19, 1982

Thomas Griffith
Time Magazine
Time-Life Building
Rockefeller Center
New York, NY 10020

Dear Mr. Griffith,

Many thanks for your column "Dont Tell Us What to Think". You have called the turn on a major shift in American journalism. Congratulations.

I consider the Bill Moyers commentary on CBS the closest thing to Goebbels-style propaganda to be served up by commercial, "respectable" journalism in my lifetime. By Goebbels-style I mean unvarnished ideology masquerading as objective commentary.

Moyers announced at the start where he comes from: "Populism". But he never explained what populism is, and I have been putting populism together by watching his broadcasts. Populism is the attitudes and catch-phrases of demagogic politicians who catch attention by exploiting differences and by aligning the rich against the poor in the hope of gaining power and/or influence. As testimony to Moyers' success, read the letters in TIME "Poverty According to CBS", in the May 24 number.

You claim that Moyers is "bright". He has to be only ordinarily intelligent to know that in our economy capital accumulation is essential to create jobs, buy machinery, and in general to keep the economy moving and growing, but he shows no evidence of having even an inkling of those facts. Instead, every action of the Reagan administration which has the obvious intent of fostering economic growth is straight-jacketed by Moyers into a rich-versus-poor formula. That seems to be Moyers' populism.

I no longer watch CBS. I know all I want to know about Moyers and his brand of populism. Please drop me a line when CBS gets back to journalism - an ism which seems to me to be radically incompatible with most isms, including populism.

In the meantime, I hope "Newswatch" will continue to uphold the standards of common-sense and of professional journalism which CBS and Bill Moyers consistently flout. What CBS and Bill Moyers are doing, in effect, is vindicating those standards and their essential soundness.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence Cranberg
Lawrence Cranberg

LAWRENCE CRANBERG, PH.D.
CONSULTING PHYSICIST

1205 CONSTANT SPRINGS DR.
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746
(512) 327-1794

May 21, 1982

Thomas Griffith
Time Magazine
Time-Life Building
Rockefeller Center
New York, NY 10020

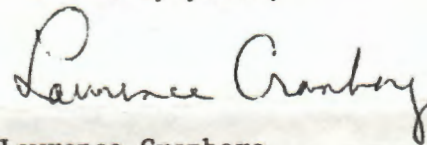
Dear Mr. Griffith,

When I wrote you in my letter of May 19 that "Bill Moyers' commentary on CBS is the closest thing to Goebbels-style propaganda to be served up by commercial, 'respectable' journalism in my lifetime", I had not heard a recent performance by Nicholas Von Hoffman.

What Moyers lacks to match Goebbels is vicious sarcasm and a loud, ranting style. Von Hoffman supplies both.

I am sure this has been suggested before, but now may be the time to set up a set of anti-Pulitzer prizes for the worst pieces of national journalism of the year. I nominate CBS for the institutional award and Von Hoffman and Moyers for individual awards to those who have done the most to confuse the public about the distinction between sound journalism and political propaganda in the current year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence Cranberg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lawrence Cranberg

21 MAY 1982

roy e. traband

May 18, 1982

p.o. box 3248
amarillo, texas 79106

Kenneth Cribb, Deputy Counselor
to the President,
The White House
Washington, D.C.

re: The Unconscionable Broadcast Lobby

Dear Deputy Counselor Cribb:

My background includes a Master's Degree in Mass Communications as well as work experience in the industry of radio and TV. Therefore, I may be able to say what I do with some authority. Namely, that America is in the throes of a most dire crisis of Constitutional proportions. What is tragic about it is that most citizens have only the vaguest idea of how information is consciously distorted and/or suppressed on the way to them.

If there has ever been a more dreadful oligopoly at work in a relatively free society---one that seems truly unassailable---I have not heard of it. The Lobby of the Airwaves is able to bring off any crime (the precise word indicated) in seeking footage for its mis-editing and no one really learns much about it. It borders on fascism much of the time, especially from the nets.

Media reformers like the fine little Accuracy in Media group do a good job; but, until some sort of statutory right of access is granted the populace the credibility of all the press is doomed, as I see it. We have a shoddy product because it is done by shabby people. There is no real way out of this dilemma other than something draconian in the courts.

2. Cribb

It is hardly a secret that the netnews divisions are out to get Reagan, albeit a bit more subtle than in past times. They may well succeed, too, for who can rebut them?

It would take some kind of well thought out plan, yet to attack CBS for its awful reports by Bill Moyers (the quintessential media bigot) such as "People Like Us" and "Central America in Revolt" is surely indicated here. The biggest mistake, in my appraisal of the relatively recent (and vindictive) history of network news, is to let them off scotfree. Yes, we know the FCC is bought and paid for, that the thrust of the present administration's philosophy is deregulation---but, sir, I ask you: when does great imbalance and carte blanche become totally out of kilter with basic objectivity and fairness!?

We know, furthermore, what happens to those who anger these degenerates (once again the proper term) of the electric news divisions. Remember LBJ, Nixon, Agnew, etc? Many other totally innocent people like Maurice Stans, too. The prestige publications like Commentary feature an anti-press intransigence/ anti-broadcasting arrogance article in almost every issue now.

So, what do we do?

First, I think the accumulated record of their transgressions must be compiled into one large compendium a la content analysis studies. Then a class action litigation on behalf of disenfranchised individuals---gun-owners would be ideal as a place to begin, for they suffer most from denial of the electronic podium---could be filed against FCC not the networks! Under oath the FCC slime could be questioned in order to "command discovery." Then perhaps the power of mandamus to have FCC live up to its charter.

Going on like we are will doom us all.

Cordially,

Roy Traband

cc: AIM