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Grace Reformed Church

United Church of Christ

1405 - 15TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

W. NORMAN MACFARLANE
Pastor

December 22, 1983

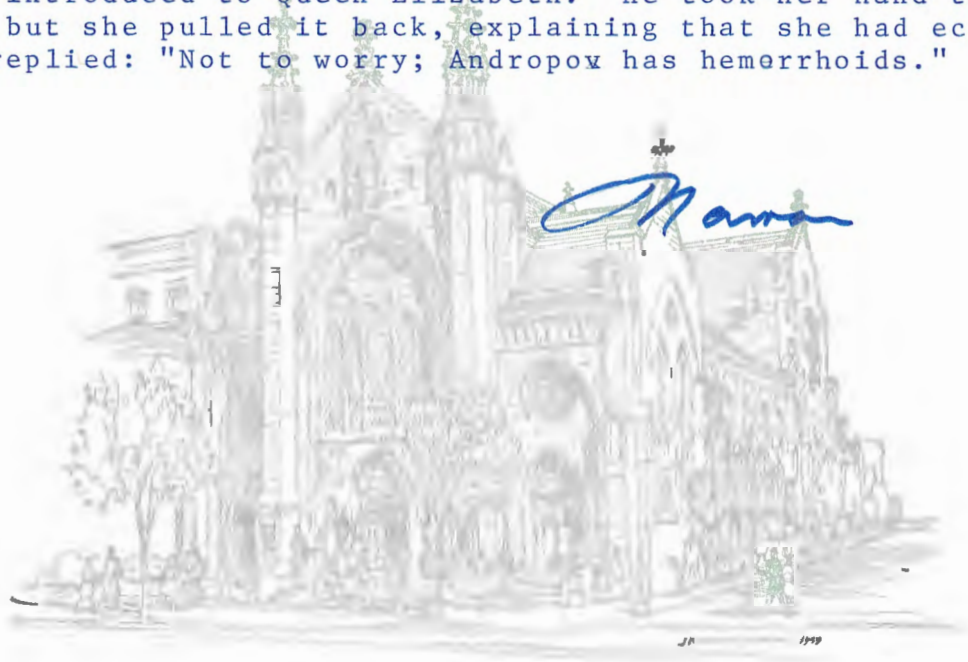
Mr. Morton Blackwell
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

Thought you might be interested in the enclosed copy,
I have threatened for a long time to do this.

After your Russian story at the Outreach Group yesterday
I wondered if you heard this one. The Russian ambassador
was introduced to Queen Elizabeth. He took her hand to kiss
it, but she pulled it back, explaining that she had eczema.
He replied: "Not to worry; Andropov has hemorrhoids."

Norman



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December 22, 1983

Mr. Dan Rather
CBS News
51 West 52nd St.
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Rather:

In response to your radio comments on Secretary Schultz' criticism of journalists not being on "our side", I am inclined to agree with the Secretary. The newsmedia in general, and you in particular, seem to have an anti-American bias. While acknowledging that we are not always right, I don't think our mistakes need to be put in the spotlight, while some of the positive actions are overlooked.

You seem to be scraping the bottom of the barrel trying to find some item with which you can disparage the President. I have seen investigative journalism descend to the low level of nitpicking. Suppose we applied the same scrutiny to you and your colleagues every time you stumble over a word or mispronounce a name. Most people have horizons higher than that, and either give the newsman the benefit of the doubt, or overlook his errors. You seize upon the mistakes of the Reagan administration with obvious delight. Why not give the guy a break? He has lowered interest rates, inflation, and joblessness. Is your record as a newscaster that impressive?

In your excellent book, "The Camera Never Blinks" you said that you went to your job every day determined to be as fair and accurate as humanly possible, and at the end of the day you asked yourself if you had met your own standards that day. I think it was true then; I don't think it is now.

Let's get back to impartiality and objectivity instead of this obsession with picayune pettiness.

Sincerely



W. Norman MacFarlane