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4 JUN 1982

"For God and Country"

Tucson Retired Officers Association

TUCSON, ARIZONA

Address Reply To:



S. G. HARRIS
2525 N. Alvernon Way
Tucson, Arizona
85712

Mr. Kenneth Cible, Deputy Counselor
to the President

The White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

Lt. Col., USAF-RET
068-01-2243

Dear Sir:

I am an 81 year old U.S. citizen. I am a veteran of 24 years service in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force (I retired from the Strategic Air Command 1961 with a Commendation Medal).

This is to urgently request that ^{you} censure the CBS Television Company and/or order it to stop harassing the U.S. Government, especially our Department of Defense.

This has been especially harmful during and since the Vietnamese War.

Enclosed is some evidence.

Respectfully,

Sidney G. Harris
Tel. 602-195-1548

AIM AIM

REPORT REPORT



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Reed Irvine, Editor

Vol. XI

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No. 10

PIMPING FOR POVERTY

The leftwing magazine, *Mother Jones*, says in its May issue that thanks to a few outspoken journalists, "such national opinion-makers as *The New York Times* and *CBS News* have moved fitfully into opposition stances, peppering the White House with critiques of its collapsing economic program and countering State Department pronouncements with vivid dispatches from El Salvador." The two active journalists singled out by *Mother Jones* as leading the assault are Bill Moyers of *CBS News* and Raymond Bonner, Central American correspondent for *The New York Times*. They also included John Oakes, the retired editorial page editor of *The Times*, who now occasionally gets his thoughts printed on the op-ed page.

Oakes' pieces attacking President Reagan "crackle with anger," says the magazine. It adds: "The same sense of outrage is evident in the commentaries of Bill Moyers, who joined *CBS Evening News* last November as a news analyst and editor. Moyers has ripped to shreds the logic of the military arms buildup; suggested a connection between the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. and government concern over the civil rights leader's growing opposition to the Vietnam War; and shown in a brilliant report on the Alaskan natural-gas pipeline how 'the two-party system was not up for grabs—it was up for sale.' Moyers' commentary on King's birthday was particularly stunning: 'In a society dependent upon a servant class, it is dangerous to demand not only respect for equality, but action to achieve it,' he declared."

Mother Jones quoted a Swiss journalist as saying that the mass media in the United States are the only real opposition in the country, and it notes the reaction of John Oakes, who said: "I wouldn't say the media has replaced the opposition, but it has superseded it." All of which suggests that in the view of this mouthpiece of the left, the leaders of our opposition are Bill Moyers, Raymond Bonner, and John Oakes.

People Like Us

Having ripped to shreds the case for national defense and having done a Bonner-like analysis of Central

America called "Central America in Revolt," Bill Moyers took up the charge that the Reagan administration is being beastly to the truly needy in a *CBS Reports* program called "People Like Us," that was aired on April 21.

The program opened with a film clip of President Reagan saying: "We will continue to fulfill the obligations that spring from our national conscience. Those who through no fault of their own must depend upon the rest of us—the poverty-stricken, the disabled, the elderly, all those with true need—can rest assured that the social safety net of programs they depend on are exempt from any cuts."

Moyers cut in, saying: "It has not worked out that way," and he then launched into three case studies of poor families that were supposed to demonstrate that Reagan had not kept his promise to maintain a safety net under the truly needy. The program was designed to jerk tears and generate anger toward Reagan. Tom Shales, television critic for *The Washington Post* said that this program "could mark a turning point in American public opinion toward the Reagan administration and its cavalier treatment of the poor." He said, "Though probably not intended as a direct attack on administration policies, the effect of 'People Like Us' is to alter one's image of President Reagan from that of well-meaning boob to something more along the lines of callous cad."

It is difficult to see why Mr. Shales thought the program was not intended as a direct attack on administration policies. After all, that is what is expected from a leader of the political opposition. An analysis of the program reveals that it was a singularly inaccurate attack. Mr. Moyers cannot even say that he was simply telling the truth and if that hurts the Reagan administration, he can't help it. The program was reminiscent of another *CBS News* special on poverty that was aired back in 1968, "Hunger in America." That documentary showed a tiny baby in a hospital in San Antonio, Texas. The viewers were told that the baby was dying on camera before their very eyes, and that the cause of death was starvation. It subsequently was revealed by a San

Antonio newspaper that the baby was filmed in the premature ward of the hospital. The baby weighed only 2 lbs., 12 ounces at birth, and it died of septicemia due to meningitis and peritonitis due to prematurity. The premature birth occurred after the mother had fallen; it had nothing to do with malnutrition. Richard Salant, then president of CBS News, eventually conceded that CBS could not even identify the baby, much less prove that it died of hunger or that it was born prematurely because of maternal malnutrition. But he implied that this was not important, since he was sure there were many babies being born prematurely in San Antonio because of maternal malnutrition. The implication was that CBS could have found such a baby if it had only searched hard enough, so why quibble if the baby filmed was only a proxy?

That spirit lives on at CBS News. It turns out that Bill Moyers found only proxies for people who had fallen through the social safety net. In two of the three cases he presented on "People Like Us" the facts were not as he represented them to be. In the third case, all that he demonstrated was that the safety net actually worked.

The Case of Larry Ham

The first case was that of Larry Ham, who quit a bakery job seven years ago and began to draw disability benefits under Social Security. Ham is a young man who suffers from cerebral palsy, which affects his walk but, as far as could be seen in the film, he has normal speech and suffers no noticeable handicap except for his abnormal walk. Despite this problem, he is quite mobile.

In 1980, under the Carter administration, Congress passed a law requiring Social Security disability claims to be reviewed periodically. This was in response to a General Accounting Office study that had estimated that as many as 20 per cent of the recipients, drawing \$2 billion a year, were actually able to work and were therefore ineligible.

A medical review of Mr. Ham's case was undertaken by the Disability Determination Service of the State of Ohio in October, 1981. Based on this review, it was determined that his disability ended in October, 1981. He was informed of this decision on November 4, 1981 and was given 10 days to submit additional evidence. On December 14, 1981, he was notified that his benefits would be terminated.

Mr. Ham appealed the ruling, as he was entitled to do under the law, and his benefits were restored after the CBS program aired. In this instance, basic federal policy has not changed. There has been no change in the definition of disability since 1967. Disability benefits have always been paid only as long as the beneficiary continues to meet the requirements of the law. The Social Security Administration has always re-examined disability claims to make sure payments are made only to those who continue to be disabled. Previously, only certain cases were reviewed. In 1980, Congress passed the Social Security Disability Amendments, which require all disability claims to be reviewed periodically. The reviews were required to begin by January, 1982.

Moyers did not tell CBS viewers that the law requiring the reevaluation was passed by a Congress with a large

Democratic Party majority in the Carter Administration. The fact is that no Reagan Administration policy changes caused Mr. Ham's disability review.

The Case of Carrie Dixon

Moyers showed a welfare mother crying bitterly as her daughter, Carrie Dixon, was taken from her home on a stretcher and transported to an institution, the Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled. Carrie, age 13, had been in a coma for eight months as a result of a series of strokes. She had been cared for at home, with the help of nurses who were paid for by Medicaid. According to Moyers, the Reagan administration's welfare cutbacks had led Carrie's mother to fear that Medicaid would terminate the payments for home nursing care. She had reluctantly decided to have Carrie sent off to the institution, where, Moyers said, the cost to the taxpayer would be substantially higher than the cost of home care.

According to both federal and Wisconsin authorities, there have been no changes in the provision of Medicaid home health service benefits, such as visiting nurses, in the Wisconsin program during the Reagan administration. The only reduction in services made by Wisconsin that possibly related to this case is a limit on some non-prescription drug services. This change became effective November 1, 1981. No change in Federal policy required Wisconsin to alter its drug coverage policy. Historically, drugs have been an optional state service under Medicaid. The use of the example of Carrie Dixon as an indication that the Reagan administration was, somehow, responsible for her removal from her home for the treatment is totally false. There is no Reagan administration policy or requirement preventing Carrie Dixon from being cared for at home.

According to *The Washington Post* of April 23, 1982, Joe Scislowicz, information officer for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, said that CBS had picked the wrong case.

The *Post* said: "Wisconsin officials said the state had recommended to Dixon's mother that she institutionalize her daughter only because they felt it was too much of a burden on the family to continue home care." CBS did not tell this to its viewers but, instead, left the false impression that the mother had reluctantly made this decision because Medicaid cuts had dictated it.

The Case of Frances Dorta

Sandwiched between these two cases which wrongly blamed the Reagan administration for (1) an action mandated by Congress before Reagan was elected, and (2) an action that was unnecessary and which CBS could easily have ascertained to be unnecessary, was the case of Frances Dorta. In this case, CBS apparently had the facts right, but they proved that the safety net was working, not that it had failed. Mrs. Dorta, a divorced mother of three, had obtained a job that paid her \$600 a month in September 1981. She had been receiving welfare payments for her children since 1973,

but those payments were terminated by the state of New Jersey in October, 1981, because her salary exceeded the state's need standard by 150 percent. Having lost her welfare benefits, Mrs. Dorta also became ineligible for Medicaid.

This presented a problem, because one of her children required an operation. In order to get the operation under Medicaid, Mrs. Dorta quit her job in January 1982 and went back on welfare. She received welfare payments and food stamps totaling \$583 a month, only \$17 a month less than she was earning at her job. Her net income on welfare was actually higher than her earnings, since she had no deductions for taxes or transportation expenses. Her son had the operation under Medicaid, and Mrs. Dorta is free to go back to work if she chooses to do so and can find a job. Moyers, who had said that he was going to show that Reagan was wrong when he said that the truly needy would not be hurt by his budget cuts, had presented a case where the safety net had worked.

Moyers therefore shifted his argument away from proving that the poor were being squeezed to showing that the Reagan program was discouraging people like Mrs. Dorta from getting off welfare both because they could get nearly as much on welfare as they could earn from low-paying jobs and because they lost their Medicaid eligibility. That is not a new problem that has suddenly emerged with the Reagan administration. It is the states, not the federal government, that set the standard of need for individuals applying for welfare benefits. Legislation passed in October 1981 decreed that welfare benefits from federal funds could not be paid if income was over 150 percent of the standard of need set by the state. Twenty-one states have raised their standard of need since that act was passed. New Jersey, where Mrs. Dorta lived, had not done so. The states can also establish programs to provide Medicaid benefits to low income families that do not qualify for federally funded welfare payments. Thirty-three states have done so. Again, New Jersey is not one of them. Mr. Moyers might better have directed his criticisms at the state of New Jersey rather than at the Reagan administration, but in any case, this example was not relevant to the charge that he had set out to prove.

The Opposition in Control

The White House was upset about the Moyers' program even before it aired. White House Communications Director David Gergen pointed out that Moyers had made no effort to include in the program an administration spokesman, nor had he asked the administration for any comment on the serious charges he was making. After the program aired, Gergen asked the president of CBS News, Van Gordon Sauter, to make available a half hour of time on the network to permit the administration to air a reply to the Moyers' program. Mr. Sauter refused that request, saying that CBS News had in the past and would in the future air administration points of view. They would not give the administration time to reply specifically to the Moyers' program.

This arrogant response is exactly what one would expect from an organization that behaves as if it were

part of the political opposition to the administration. The preparation of the program with misleading cases and ignoral of contrasting viewpoints marked it from the beginning as a political statement, not an objective news story. Moyers told one interviewer that he didn't think it was any more appropriate to seek out the administration viewpoint to include in the program than it would be to ask a murderer, caught in the act, for his side of the story. Bill Moyers perhaps forgot momentarily that even murderers are permitted to plead not guilty and to offer a defense. Moyers and CBS News see no need to extend that privilege to the President. As they did with General Westmoreland and so many others, they found him guilty on the basis of the evidence they assembled. They don't want to spoil their case by acknowledging the existence of conflicting evidence.

It would have spoiled Moyers' program to have included the facts about safety net spending that were given to the press by Dr. Robert Rubin, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Rubin stated: "Safety net spending under President Reagan is not going down, but is going up—both in actual dollars and as a percentage of the federal budget. Spending on safety net programs was 37% of the total budget in 1981 and will climb to 39% in 1984. At the Department of HHS alone, our proposed Fiscal Year 1983 budget contains an increase of \$20 billion, or eight per cent—from \$253.9 billion to \$274.2 billion."

Hoist By Its Own Petard

It is doubtful that CBS would have been quite so cavalier in using its powerful facilities to perform this hatchet job on the President if this administration had shown any disposition to enforce the Fairness Doctrine. This is a legal requirement that broadcasters who permit controversial issues of public importance to be discussed over their facilities provide a reasonable opportunity for all points of view to be heard.

Unfortunately for President Reagan, the man he appointed to head the Federal Communications Commission, Mark Fowler, believes that this simple requirement of fairness is unduly burdensome to those who have been given the privilege of operating radio and television stations. Fowler and a majority of his fellow commissioners have asked Congress to repeal this provision of the law. They want broadcasters to have the very same rights to be partisan, unfair, deceptive and even pornographic that newspapers, magazines, and movie producers now enjoy. While Mr. Fowler has said that he will uphold the Fairness Doctrine as long as it is on the books, his staff has already rejected an Accuracy in Media complaint against CBS over their persistently one-sided presentations of the charge that the FBI smeared the late Jean Seberg, causing her grievous emotional damage. Despite the fact that this story has done serious damage to the reputation of the FBI and has generated hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles and radio and television broadcasts, the FCC staff said that AIM had failed to demonstrate that the matter was either of public importance or controversial.

AIM will endeavor to demonstrate to the FCC that it is both important and controversial. We have also written to CBS to lay the groundwork for a Fairness Doctrine complaint about "People Like Us." CBS is obviously counting on Mr. Fowler's staff to find some excuse to reject any effort to require that they allow the White House to tell its side of the story. Perhaps the President, having seen at close range how unfair and destructive a tool television can be in the hands of an unprincipled politician posing as a journalist, will advise Mark Fowler that the time has come to start enforcing the

Fairness Doctrine instead of spending his time trying to abolish it.

What You Can Do

1. We will list the sponsors of "People Like Us" in the Notes from the Editor's Cuff. Write to as many of them as you can.

2. Write to the White House giving your views on enforcement and preservation of the Fairness Doctrine. Direct your letter to Kenneth Cribb, Deputy Counselor to the President, White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.

THE SAME REFRAIN AT NEWSWEEK

The theme that Reagan's safety net is not saving the truly needy from catastrophe was also sounded in the April 5 issue of Newsweek, which ran a lengthy cover story on the state of the poor in "Reagan's polarized America." Newsweek informed its readers that "many Americans" believe that "the supply-side bias of Reaganomics threatens to pull the social safety net out from under the poor." According to Newsweek, these unidentified pessimists fear that "the Reagan cuts in social spending will push millions below the official poverty line," while at the same time, "Reagan's programs to spur investment and production promise to make the rich wealthier than ever." "So far," says Newsweek, "there is little question that the needy have borne the brunt of Reagan's budget cuts." The theme is repeated: "Ultimately the issue is political morality—whether it is right, in the end, to increase the burden on the poor and near poor even temporarily so that the nation can regain its economic momentum. And there is no doubt that Reaganomics increases the burden."

Milton Friedman's Rebuttal

The noted economist, Milton Friedman, said in his column in the April 19 issue of Newsweek: "During sixteen years of fruitful association with Newsweek, only one other story has disturbed me as much as Newsweek's cover story, 'Reagan's America: And the Poor get Poorer.' The story gives a most misleading impression of the source and extent of poverty, and of the likely effects of the tax and budget measures enacted in 1981."

Friedman singles out four of the many statements in the article that could be criticized. He points out (1) that a high percentage of "poverty money" never reaches the poor, (2) that the percentage of people below the official poverty line is highly exaggerated, (3) that the number classified as poor has risen along with rising prosperity and growing welfare-state spending, and (4) that the Reagan tax cuts that supposedly benefit the rich simply prevent an unlegislated tax increase caused by inflation or offset the legislated increase in social security taxes.

What the lengthy Newsweek article ignored, according to Friedman, was the fact that the poverty programs have been terribly expensive, placing an enormous burden on the productive members of society, and much of the money consumed has not gone to the poor but to

the "poverty industry"—the well-paid civil servants, consultants and businessmen who administer or exploit the loosely audited poverty programs. Newsweek conceded that there had been much fraud and mismanagement in the poverty programs. It even acknowledged that by some estimates only a dime of every dollar spent on the war on poverty actually reached the poor directly. But the overwhelming thrust of the story was that Reagan is an ogre for trying to tighten up.

While it repeated charges that the safety net was not working, Newsweek did no better than Bill Moyers in finding examples to prove its point. Of the half dozen individual or family examples of poor people cited in the article, not one indicated that the safety net had failed to perform as Reagan had promised.

Emotional Truth

In defending Bill Moyers' "People Like Us" against the criticism that it was seriously flawed by misrepresentation of the facts, Tom Shales of The Washington Post said "I think there is such a thing as an emotional truth." In the context of the discussion "emotional truth" appears to refer to anything that carries a strong emotional appeal even if it is false or distorted. Shales said that TV, unlike newspapers, appeals to the emotions. However, the Newsweek story also resorted to "emotional truth."

The theme was that Reagan is benefiting the "very rich" at the expense of the very poor. Friedman commented: "It is a curious 'benefit' to the 'very rich' to refrain from raising still higher tax burdens that are already at a 'historic' high for peacetime... Treating hoary cliches as received truths does not promote a reasoned and balanced public discussion of the measures that are needed to get at the roots of poverty rather than simply at the symptoms—and at the same time eliminate the poverty industry."

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S CUFF

By Reed Irvine

May-II 1982

IN THE APRIL-I AIM REPORT WE PUBLISHED A LIST OF THE COMPANIES WHOSE COMMERCIALS had been aired in the commercial breaks in the CBS documentary, "Central America in Revolt." We listed 15 different companies. We have received letters from Getty Oil Company and Big Boy Restaurants of America, which is owned by the Marriott Corporation, stating that they did not "sponsor" the program. Hank Londean, Corporate Public Affairs Manager of Getty, informs us that the commercial we saw ran only in Washington, D.C., Kansas City, and Denver. He writes: "This local commercial time was acquired on a single spot basis and was part of a larger local media schedule." The commercial was an opinion ad, the type of ad that the networks have frequently refused to carry. Mr. Londean says: "Getty plans to continue advocating its views and we are not reluctant to enter the marketplace of ideas where others may have opinions differing from our own. We will continue to place commercials during, or adjacent to, news and public affairs programming so that our message will reach what we consider to be thoughtful television viewers." I can't quarrel with that strategy, and certainly it did not help CBS finance the objectionable documentary. We hereby apologize to Getty and ask that you strike them from the list of sponsors of that program.

WE ALSO HEARD FROM ELMO L. GEOGHEGAN OF BIG BOY RESTAURANTS. MR. GEOGHEGAN DENIES that they sponsored the program, saying that it is possible that a local station could have run one of their commercials. So our apologies to Bob's Big Boy. Strike them from the list also.

MR. FREDERICK H. COOK, PRESIDENT OF PUROLATOR, INC., WRITES TO DENY THAT THEY sponsored the program, but their situation is a little different. Mr. Cook says that some months ago they purchased five prime TV spots from CBS and were given a sixth spot free, with that spot to be used at a time chosen by CBS. Mr. Cook says that CBS chose to put it on with "Central America in Revolt," without the knowledge of Purolator. He says: "We regret that the spot commercial was used during such a controversial program and any distress it may have caused friends of our company." Mr. Cook says their commercial was run "as one of sixteen participating advertisers." We only counted 15, including the two above that deny having been national sponsors. Evidently we missed some others.

THE MOST INTERESTING LETTER OF ALL WAS WRITTEN BY MR. CHRISTOPHER BROWNE, SENIOR Vice President of Holiday Inns. Mr. Browne writes: "Please let me assure you that we are very concerned regarding our advertising presence on 'Central America in Revolt.' Had we known what the content of this show was prior to airing, we would not have participated as a sponsor. By content, I mean the slant that CBS chose to take on the programming, not the subject matter."

WE HAVE LEARNED SOME IMPORTANT LESSONS FROM THIS EXPERIENCE. THE FIRST IS THAT WE must check to make sure that the commercials we see on a program have been purchased from the network, not the local station. Unfortunately, CBS refused to provide us with this information, making it necessary to check with each advertiser, which can be quite time-consuming and costly. The second lesson is that with your help we can generate enough letters to cause the advertisers to sit up and take notice. The letter from Holiday Inns was most encouraging. But the letters from the other three companies seeking to disassociate themselves from the program helped prove the effectiveness of your letters.

HAVING LEARNED THESE LESSONS, WE INTEND TO FOCUS ON SPONSORS A LOT MORE IN THE FUTURE. We have identified and checked six sponsors of the Bill Moyers' documentary, "People Like Us," which is discussed in this issue of the AIM Report. We urge that you write to them. Here is the list and the products they advertised.

W. Clark Wescoe, Chairman
Sterling Drug Inc.
90 Park Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10016
Bayer Aspirin, Perk Wax,
Love My Carpet, Lysol

James Ferguson, Chairman
General Foods Corp.
250 North St.
White Plains, N. Y. 10625
Jell-o, Sanka, Cool Whip,
Stove Top Stuffing

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

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

R. Hal Dean, Chairman
Ralston Purina Co.
835 So. 8th St.
St. Louis, MO 63102
Chex cereals

John W. Culligan, Chairman
American Home Products Corp.
685 Third Ave.
New York, N. Y. 10017
Easy Off Oven Cleaner

NOTE THAT HOLIDAY INNS SPONSORED "PEOPLE LIKE US" DESPITE MR. BROWNE'S LETTER saying they would not have sponsored "Central America in Revolt" had they been aware of the content. "People Like Us" was just as distorted as "Central America in Revolt." I wonder if anyone at Holiday Inns made any effort to check the content of this documentary before they agreed to help sponsor it. Also note that both Sterling Drug and American Home Products helped sponsor "Central America in Revolt" as well as "People Like Us." It would take the rest of this page to list all the products they market. Here are some of them. American Home Products: Chef Boy-Ar-Dee products, Gulden's mustard, Jiffy-Pop popcorn, Aero Wax, Griffin Shoe Wax, Pam non-stick, Wizard deodorizers, Woolite, Anacin, Dristan, EKCO Products. Sterling Drug: Phillips Milk of Magnesia, Wet Ones, Dorothy Gray and Givenchy cosmetics, Midol, Campho-Phenique, Mop & Glo.

WE HAVE REPORTED TO YOU SEVERAL TIMES ON THE STORY THE NEW YORK TIMES RAN LAST January 11, charging that American military advisers in El Salvador had observed a torture training session without taking any action. The Times still has not told its readers that the El Salvadoran army deserter who was the sole source of this story had actually told a group of Americans last October that the Americans were teaching the torture session. However, finally on April 20, The Times published a 17-column-inch story on page 7 reporting that the Inspector General of the U. S. Army had investigated the charge and had found the account untrue. All 20 military advisers who were in El Salvador at the time the alleged incident took place were questioned. All had denied observing the incidents alleged in the Raymond Bonner story or any other acts of atrocity during their tours of duty in El Salvador. Col. Eldon L. Cummings, who commanded the U. S. Military Group in El Salvador, told The Times: "At no time during the entire period that I was in El Salvador, 15 months, did anyone of the military who were under my command ever inform me of any such incident. United States soldiers just don't sit there or stand there and watch something of that nature occurring without either trying to prevent it or, if they can't, informing their superiors afterward." Col. Cummings also cited three discrepancies in the story told by the deserter. Contrary to what the deserter said, no Americans in El Salvador wore camouflage fatigues or green berets. The Americans dressed to minimize their visibility. The officers wore civilian clothes, and the two helicopter instructors and the 12-man maintenance team wore zip-up jump suits. The deserter had said he was in a paratroop unit that was to be trained by two American advisers. Col. Cummings said no American trainers ever worked with the paratroop unit in El Salvador.

CAN YOU HELP US GET MORE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS? THE ALLIED EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION has increased the grant to fund our Speakers Bureau, and we want to double our speaking activity this year. We have some 20 speakers available. We will provide them FREE, all expenses paid, for any group of reasonable size. Write or call for a brochure listing all the available speakers. Call 202-783-4406. Ask for Lisa Hill.



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ANATOMY OF A SMEAR

**HOW CBS NEWS BROKE THE RULES
AND 'GOT' GEN. WESTMORELAND**

By Don Kowet and Sally Bedell

"Tonight, we're going to present evidence of what we have come to believe was a conscious effort—indeed, a conspiracy—at the highest levels of American military intelligence to suppress and alter critical intelligence on the enemy in the year leading up to the Tet Offensive."

Thus, on the evening of Jan. 23, 1982, CBS News correspondent Mike Wallace introduced a 90-minute documentary titled "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception." What followed was a powerful and polished examination of a sensitive chapter of our recent history. Using the compelling testimony of ex-military officers, the program attacked the reputation of Gen. William Westmoreland, the former commander of U.S. military forces in Vietnam.

The evidence amassed by CBS seemed to prove the U.S. military's intelligence operation in Vietnam, led by General Westmoreland, conspired to deceive President Lyndon Johnson, the Congress and the American public. Beginning in 1967, the documentary charged, Westmoreland had systematically underreported to his superiors the size and strength of the enemy, in order to make it appear that he was indeed winning the "war of attrition."

Three days after the show, Westmoreland and Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham, an ex-military-intelligence officer, held a two-hour press conference in Washington to denounce the documentary and to demand in vain an apology from CBS. Newsweek magazine, a New York Times editorial and columnist William F. Buckley all accepted the program's central premise—that Westmoreland had deliberately concealed crucial intelligence from President Johnson. But the Times and The Washington Post also published rebuttals from Walt →

From top: Gen. William Westmoreland questioned by CBS's Mike Wallace; American troops during the 1968 Tet Offensive; Wallace interviews CBS consultant Sam Adams.



continued

Rostow and Gen. Maxwell Taylor (two former Johnson Administration advisers) challenging that premise. Soon it became clear that there were huge discrepancies between the documentary's portrayal of events and the version vehemently argued by the show's critics, many of them former officials with firsthand knowledge whose accounts were not included in the show.

The documentary was an ambitious attempt to shed light on one of the most important debates in recent American history: the question of responsibility for our humiliating loss of a war that cost the lives of 57,000 Americans and inflicted wounds on the society and economy of this country that are still far from healed.

The seriousness of the charges made in the documentary, and the strong criticism it aroused, led TV GUIDE to undertake a two-month investigation of the making of "The Uncounted Enemy." Its purpose was not to confirm or deny the existence of the "conspiracy" that CBS's journalists say existed. Instead, we wanted to examine how they sought to document their charges against military intelligence and General Westmoreland himself.

Our investigation disclosed that:

□ CBS began the project already convinced that a conspiracy had been perpetrated, and turned a deaf ear toward evidence that suggested otherwise.

□ CBS paid \$25,000 to a consultant on the program without adequately investigating his 14-year quest to prove the program's conspiracy theory.

□ CBS violated its own official guidelines by rehearsing its paid consultant before he was interviewed on camera.

□ CBS screened for a sympathetic witness—in order to persuade him to redo his on-camera interview—the statements of other witnesses already on film. But CBS never offered the targets of its conspiracy charge any opportunity, before their interviews, to hear their accusers, or to have a second chance before the cameras.

□ CBS asked sympathetic witnesses soft questions, while grilling unfriendly witnesses with prosecutorial zeal.

□ CBS misrepresented the accounts of events provided by some witnesses, while ignoring altogether other witnesses who might have been able to challenge CBS's assertions.

□ CBS pulled quotes out of context, in one case to imply incorrectly that Westmoreland was familiar with a meeting where estimates of the enemy were arbitrarily slashed—a familiarity that was crucial to proving the conspiracy.

□ CBS's own paid consultant now



CBS producer George Crile did some on-camera interviews himself.

doubts the documentary's premise of a Westmoreland-led conspiracy.

"Sam Adams' role was to provide the research from which we began our reporting. He was not the man who determined what went into the broadcast or how it was cast. . . . The weight of the show was not the Sam Adams story." —George Crile.

In early November 1980, CBS Reports producer George Crile flew to Virginia to visit Sam Adams at his farmhouse. The purpose of Crile's visit was to reexamine a

controversy that in 1967 and 1968 had raged between the Central Intelligence Agency and Gen. William Westmoreland's MACV (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam) over the enemy "order of battle"—the official size and composition of the North Vietnamese and Vietcong fighting forces in Vietnam. The intelligence controversy focused on the size of the enemy force, and whether certain categories of the enemy, particularly shadow organizations called Self-Defense

and Secret Self-Defense (composed mainly of women, youths and older men, and often unarmed) were significant enough a threat to be listed in the order of battle as soldiers. Sam Adams, the only CIA analyst then studying that question full-time, argued that they should; the military said they should not.

In 1975, Adams had written an article about the controversy for Harper's magazine, where George Crile had been his editor. Now, five years later, Crile was visiting Adams in Virginia because he thought that the order-of-battle story might make a CBS documentary. He wanted to consult Adams' "chronologies."

On long, lined, yellow legal pads, in a tight, tiny scrawl, Adams had recorded every detail he could gather, crucial or just curious, of the 1967-68 order-of-battle controversy. His "master chronology" was now 140 pages long; if typed out, Adams estimates, it would fill 500 to 600 pages.

This master chronology was a principal weapon in Adams' crusade to prove that military-intelligence officers in Vietnam had conspired to conceal the true strength of the enemy.

From his most recent interviews, Adams had concluded that in 1967 MACV not only had intentionally underreported enemy troop strength in South Vietnam but had suppressed reports of hordes of enemy soldiers infiltrating into South Vietnam down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Adams was convinced that the faked estimates and suppressed infiltration reports had left the American Army and American President unprepared for the all-out attack the enemy launched on Vietnam's Tet holiday—Jan. 30, 1968.

"I told George what these people had told me," says Adams, "and George got real interested. George said, 'I'll write something up.' I read his proposal," Adams adds, "and it pretty well followed what these guys had said and what was in their letters."

"Conspiracy . . . was a characterization which we agreed to use in the script only at the very end, after reviewing everything in the show."

—George Crile

In fact, the notion of a "conspiracy" was the central premise of the project from its inception. On Nov. 24, 1980, when George Crile sent his "blue sheet" (the proposal a producer submits to get his documentary idea approved) to his executive producer, Howard Stringer, its nine section headings included: "THE CONSPIRACY," "THE KEY CONSPIRATOR TAKES CHARGE," "THE CONSPIRACY IS FORCED TO EXPAND" and "THE CONSPIRACY CONTINUES."

In his 1980 blue sheet, Crile proposed to document "how the U.S. Military command in Vietnam entered into an elaborate conspiracy to deceive Washington and the American public as to the nature and size of the enemy we were fighting." Crile went on to suggest "that a number of very high officials—General Westmoreland included—participated in a conspiracy that robbed this country of the ability to make critical judgments about its most vital security interests during →



a time of war."

That blue sheet's scenarios, key witnesses, villains—and its "conspiracy"—would appear virtually intact in the CBS documentary that aired more than a year later.

Early in January 1981, CBS gave Crile provisional approval. A \$25,000 budget was authorized for preliminary interviews. It was decided that if the documentary was given the go-ahead, Mike Wallace would be its chief correspondent.

Crile's main source in the search for interviewees was a list of 60 former intelligence officers, a list Adams calls "probably the most important single document I supplied George." Carefully selecting from the list men whose testimony might support the conspiracy theory, Crile by April 1981 had enough interviews on film, he believed, to demonstrate that the documentary could be done. At a series of screenings, Roger Colloff, a CBS News vice president, and executive producer Howard Stringer (Crile's supervisor) viewed "selects"—segments of interviews chosen by Crile.

"We all decided there was indeed a broadcast," says Colloff, "and that it made sense to proceed."

CBS approved the documentary. The project was given a budget of \$225,000. Other interviews were filmed, with Crile, the correspondent, relying largely on Sam Adams' expertise and Adams' chronologies. Mike Wallace would interview only Sam Adams himself; the two main "conspirators," Generals Westmoreland and Graham; and Walt Rostow, former adviser to President Lyndon Johnson.

"I have told [Sam Adams] I would see if we could pay him for his research. . . . I made it clear to him, however, that this might not be possible—among other reasons because he is sure to be a key interview in the show.—George Crile's blue sheet, Nov. 24, 1980

Paying for Adams' research and expertise turned out to be possible. CBS News signed him on as a consultant—and paid him \$25,000. (Hiring consultants is a common practice for news organizations

undertaking complicated investigative stories.) And despite the reservations Crile expressed in the blue sheet, CBS News executives permitted Adams to tell his story on camera.

CBS disclosed in the documentary that Adams was a consultant. But viewers had no way of knowing the extent to which his dual role—as consultant and key witness—gave Adams an uncommon privilege in the presence of CBS's most feared inquisitor, Mike Wallace.

Adams took part in "chronology sessions" in George Crile's office. Adams would sit there with stacks of his yellow legal pads bulging out of a duffel bag. He would read aloud to Crile and Alex Alben, the show's researcher, the catechism—in exquisite detail—of the order-of-battle "conspiracy" as he had recorded it. When Crile and Adams weren't around, staffers working on the documentary called these chronology sessions "The Adams Chronicles."

Mike Wallace never attended those sessions. Busy with *60 Minutes* before May 1981, Wallace had met Sam Adams only twice, briefly.

Wallace says he was "curious" about Adams' story. He says he regarded Adams as "an expert—he had been studying the subject." But Wallace also realized that at the root of Adams' expertise lay an obsession. "One man's obsession"—a word often used when people talked about Adams—"is another man's truth," Wallace says. "I admire a man who is obsessed with the truth."

However, neither Wallace nor Crile's bosses, Colloff and Stringer, ever did any more to examine Adams' credibility than simply sit down and chat with him.

"Mike Wallace's role was to be the Edward Bennett Williams in a law trial, with his junior partner, me, preparing the case."

—George Crile

Wallace was scheduled to interview Sam Adams, CBS's paid consultant, on May 12 at Adams' farm. Adams has confirmed that, five days before the interview, he traveled to New York and spent two →

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days, May 7 and May 8, at CBS. He was not able to recall the purpose of that visit. "But I can tell you what it wasn't," Adams volunteers. "I wasn't going over the questions for my interview. For my interview with Mike Wallace I went in cold turkey."

However, we have learned that prior to sitting down with Wallace, Adams was coached extensively at CBS News on the questioning he would be facing. Such rehearsals are forbidden by CBS's own published ethical guidelines for journalists, guidelines that expressly prohibit "interviews which are not spontaneous and unrehearsed."

"Literally, they did a mock interview," a CBS source told TV GUIDE. "George and Alex [Alben, the researcher] ran through the questions in chronological order—the ones basically used by Wallace. Not only did they do a run-through—they gave Sam definite feedback on his answers. It was a conscious effort to rehearse the whole interview, from top to bottom."

Alex Alben recalls that he and Crile did have a "long session" with Adams. "It would be incorrect to use the word 'coached'—in the sense of 'Oh Sam, say this again, use a better word, do it this way, use this phrase,'" says Alben. "It would be, 'Sam, you've told us your account of your meeting with Gains Hawkins on such and such a day.' And he would say [repeat] it—and I'm sure, if it's any sort of coaching, it was that Sam knew essentially what would be covered."

In his interview with Adams, Wallace did act like an Edward Bennett Williams examining a "friendly witness" (Alben's term) who could support his case. Asking Adams tough questions, says Wallace, "never occurred to me. My understanding was we were getting his charges on the record—whistle-blower's charges, if you will." He adds: "And then we would go from there to find out whether what he said was so or not so."

Wallace went from the Adams interview to the Westmoreland interview—this time as an adversary, not an ally.

Crile telephoned General Westmoreland at his home in Charleston, S.C., →

continued

on May 10, 1981, to arrange the Wallace interview for later that week in New York.

George Crile insists that he discussed fully with Westmoreland subjects to be covered in the interview. But Westmoreland disagrees. "The discussion on the phone was very vague," says Westmoreland. Crile told Westmoreland he would send him a letter confirming the topics to be covered.

Westmoreland arrived in New York on Friday, May 15, the day before the interview. On that same day, Crile wrote the letter of confirmation and had it dropped off at Westmoreland's hotel. The letter listed five topics that Wallace would cover. The real subject of the interview and the documentary—"What about the controversy between the CIA and the military over enemy-strength estimates?"—stood fourth on the list.

In the documentary, Westmoreland seemed the picture of guilt—darting his eyes and licking his lips, in a state of agitation. During many of his answers, he stammered and fumbled—in contrast to Sam Adams, who was relaxed and expansive. Westmoreland was, in fact, so angered by the tone and tenor of Wallace's questions that, in an early break for a tape change, he turned to Crile and said, "You rattlesnaked me." Later, during the taping, he snapped at Wallace, "I can't remember figures like that. You have done some research. I haven't done any research. I'm just reflecting on my memory."

Nevertheless, an examination of the unedited 102 pages of their encounter reveals that Westmoreland made his case more effectively off-screen than on.

Some of Westmoreland's *denials* would be included in the CBS documentary, but none of his most convincing *explanations*. For instance, on at least 10 different occasions Westmoreland argued that the relatively small size of the enemy force that attacked during the Tet Offensive demonstrated that, rather than underestimating the strength of the enemy, the military had overestimated it.

Not once, however, was this opposing

argument offered in the show.

The segment of the Westmoreland interview that, in the documentary, would seem most incriminating focused on infiltration. CBS knew that in the fall of 1967, MACV's official infiltration figures—the number of regular North Vietnamese soldiers coming down the Ho Chi Minh Trail into South Vietnam—had never climbed above 8000 per month. But Crile had interviewed several MACV infiltration analysts who claimed that during the five months before Tet, they had been submitting infiltration estimates of more than 25,000 per month. The analysts also claimed that their superiors blocked these reports to keep enemy-strength figures low, to make it appear as if allied forces were wearing down the enemy.

To Wallace's surprise, when he asked Westmoreland what the monthly figures were just before Tet, Westmoreland replied "... in the magnitude of about 20,000 a month."

The documentary would juxtapose this statement with a statement of only 5500-6000 infiltrators a month that Westmoreland had made on *Meet the Press* in November 1967. "There wasn't any doubt in the Westmoreland interview," says Wallace. "He said it [20,000] at least three times." Wallace believes he gave Westmoreland "the opportunity to refresh his memory over and over."

However, the full transcript shows that Westmoreland expressed doubts when Wallace asked him about the discrepancy. The lower number, said Westmoreland, "was the rate that took place during the summer. But it did pick up. I would have to look at the reports before I could answer that question."

Westmoreland looked, and on June 9—seven months before air date—he sent Wallace and Crile at CBS what he says he considered at the time a correction, which said that the official MACV documents confirmed 5500-6000 through December. Then the numbers jumped in January to more than 20,000. Wallace and Crile did not tell their superiors about this correction, and it didn't appear on the show.

"For me, the order-of-battle issue, although I played a major role in it at certain stages—by 1967, 1968 I was not one of the principal players in the game. I was on the periphery of it."

—George Allen

Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham was a tough interview: out of 90 minutes, only 20 seconds of denials aired



Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham faces Mike Wallace.

In May, a few weeks after Wallace cross-examined Westmoreland, George Crile interviewed a man he regarded as a key witness for the CBS case. George Allen had been Sam Adams' immediate superior at the CIA. He was a longtime Adams defender. However, Allen says he "tried to dissuade Crile from even doing the show, because I thought they were making a mountain out of a molehill."

Crile was dissatisfied with George Allen's interview. So he and Allen agreed to do it over again. However, before that second interview, Crile led the ex-CIA officer into a CBS screening room. Crile then proceeded to screen for Allen interviews already filmed, including segments of interviews with Col. Gains Hawkins, Gen. Joseph McChristian and ex-CIA analyst Joe Hovey, all of whose testimony Crile intended to use in the documentary to support the conspiracy charge against Generals Westmoreland and Graham.

"It was something I did to try to help

George Allen speak with the dignity he did off camera," says George Crile.

"As I recall," says Allen, "Crile had in mind that my memory might be refreshed if I saw a bit of what others had to say at that point."

By affording Allen an opportunity to compare his views with those of interviewees already on film, Crile was permitting Allen to hear parts of the accusations against "conspirators" Westmoreland and Graham while denying the generals either an opportunity to hear the voices of their accusers before the interviews or to redo their interviews.

Mike Wallace's next interview, on June 3, 1981, was with Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham, a leathery, pugnacious champion of the military's hardest line. Out of 90 minutes, Graham—one of CBS's two key "conspirators"—showed up a mere 20 seconds on camera to deny the two basic charges against him: that he blocked infiltration reports in the fall of 1967, and that after the enemy's Tet Offensive, he engineered a cover-up by asking intelligence officers to alter MACV's historical record of the order-of-battle data stored in the military's computer.

"Walt Rostow's position after the broadcast was completely different from his position during our interview. . . . What he said in his letter to The New York Times is diametrically opposed to what he was telling us before. That's the essence of it."

—George Crile

On July 24, 1981, Mike Wallace sat down for a three-hour session with Walt Rostow, the adviser responsible for funneling to Lyndon Johnson information flowing from Vietnam. Rostow could tell Wallace exactly what the President did or did not know about the intelligence controversy over enemy strength. He repeatedly denied to Wallace that critical intelligence had been kept from President Johnson. Nevertheless, after a considerable expenditure of time, money and effort, CBS would deem not one second of Walt Rostow's interview worthy of airing. "I'm satisfied," says Wallace, "that in sum he added nothing to an understanding →

of this particular controversy."

Fifteen days after the CBS broadcast, in a letter in the Feb. 7, 1982 New York Times, Rostow wrote that President Johnson had been fully aware of both the enemy order-of-battle debate and of Hanoi's planned all-out offensive.

"If Rostow had said in the interview with you what he said in the letter," we asked George Crile, "would that have been worthy of including in the broadcast?"

"Yes, sure," said Crile. "It would have caused us to believe that somehow a back-channel [a private message] had gone from Westmoreland to the White House."

TV GUIDE has learned that—contrary to CBS's assertions—Rostow did make to Mike Wallace every point he made later in his New York Times letter. The complete, unedited 112-page transcript of the Rostow interview reveals that Rostow assured Wallace that Johnson "knew that starting in the autumn of 1967 that . . . the North Vietnamese regulars were infiltrating at a higher rate." The President, Rostow said, "was following the number of the particular North Vietnamese units that were coming down, which he got straight from communications intelligence" that Rostow characterized as "of an unimpeachable kind."

On the order-of-battle controversy, Rostow told Wallace, "The point is [Johnson] did understand that . . . there was a debate and it was a debate essentially about whether they had underestimated in the past the scale of that category that you just described to me [guerrilla militia and political cadre]."

Yet CBS "killed" that Rostow interview in its entirety. By September—four months before air date—says researcher Alex Alben, Crile and Wallace had finished their on-camera interviewing. But CBS still had not sought out a number of officials pivotal to the controversy covered by the program: Ellsworth Bunker, the U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam; Ambassador Robert Komer, head of the Vietnam "Pacification Program"; George Carver, the CIA official in charge of Vietnamese

affairs; Col. Charles Morris, chief of intelligence production at MACV; and his immediate superior, Gen. Phillip Davidson Jr., the top military-intelligence officer in Vietnam.

Davidson, whose name had threaded through the CBS research, was the most important of all these omissions. "If the figures on enemy strength were going to be manipulated, I had to do it," Davidson told us. "Westmoreland gave no orders about intelligence matters that didn't go through me." Davidson, in fact, was the single most powerful intelligence officer in all of Vietnam.

At one point, during a portion of his interview with Wallace that was not broadcast, an angry Westmoreland, tired of trying to answer questions his intelligence chief was better qualified to answer, asked Wallace why he had not spoken to Davidson. Wallace's response reveals why CBS had not talked to him.

"General Davidson is a very, very sick man," Wallace replied. "We want very much to talk to . . ."

Wallace and researcher Alben say Crile told them Davidson was very ill and that Crile had tried to reach Davidson repeatedly by telephone. Crile himself told us that he had tried to telephone Davidson but that no one had answered.

We reached Davidson at his home in Texas. Davidson said that as far as he knows CBS had "made absolutely no effort to get hold of me. They did not telephone me. They did not write me."

Davidson told us that in 1974 he had suffered from cancer that had been treated successfully. "For the past eight years," Davidson said, "I have been healthy"—a fact that we verified, after receiving Davidson's permission, with his private physician, Dr. Mauro Gangai, director of the Urology Clinic at the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

* * *

With the documentary completed and the Jan. 23 broadcast only weeks away, George Crile suddenly decided to interview two principal characters he had pre-

viously omitted. For the first time, he telephoned Col. Charles Morris, formerly General Davidson's deputy and Daniel Graham's immediate superior. Crile says that Morris confirmed the documentary's story, although Crile cannot explain why he left this important confirmation until it was too late to include it. (Morris himself, however, now denies that he supported CBS's allegations.)

Crile also met for the first time with

Said the general who was the top military-intelligence officer in Vietnam: '[CBS] did not telephone me. They did not write me.'

George Carver, the superior of George Allen; Crile had interviewed Allen extensively on camera. Carver was the CIA's expert on the order-of-battle controversy and had firsthand knowledge of decisions that George Allen could only speculate about. Crile had not interviewed Carver on camera, he says, because "we had cables, internal CIA memos and reports which explicitly documented Carver's actions throughout the period."

Carver also says he gave Crile information that contradicted the show.

On Jan. 22, the day before the broadcast, CBS ran a full-page ad that appeared in both *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. It showed a group of men sitting around a table. Emblazoned across that table in thick letters was the word: CONSPIRACY. The following evening, after more than a year of research and the expenditure of an estimated \$350,000, CBS aired "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception."

Our own comparison of the broadcast transcripts with our interviews and the unedited transcripts of CBS's interviews reveals repeated journalistic lapses. Two incidents in particular demonstrate how, throughout the documentary, CBS produced distorted accounts of events to support its case.

The McChristian-Hawkins Briefing: The first piece of evidence in the documentary concerned a briefing in

which Gen. Joseph McChristian (Gen. Phillip Davidson's predecessor), the chief of the military's intelligence in Vietnam, and Col. Gains Hawkins, MACV's expert on the Vietcong, told Westmoreland about documents showing that the enemy's forces were larger than had been previously believed. CBS alleged that Westmoreland subsequently "suppressed" this report.

In presenting its evidence, however, CBS misrepresented statements from both McChristian and Hawkins. Their comments about three separate incidents were woven together into what seemed to be one pivotal meeting.

TV GUIDE's study of the official unedited transcripts of George Crile's interviews with McChristian and Hawkins reveals that McChristian was discussing a cable about enemy strength that he took to Westmoreland. Hawkins, however, was talking about two separate briefings he gave to Westmoreland in "the main briefing room" at MACV's headquarters.

McChristian never told Crile he felt Westmoreland was "suppressing" his report. Said McChristian in the transcript (but not in the show): "He [Westmoreland] asked me to leave that cable with him 'cause he wanted to review it. Shortly thereafter I left the country, and I don't know for a fact actually what happened to that message. . . ."

When Crile tried to get McChristian to pinpoint the report as the reason for his transfer, McChristian told Crile that he had been notified of his transfer "some time before" he gave Westmoreland the cable. "George," said McChristian, "I don't think there was a connection in my trying to increase the estimate, because the trend on enemy strength was constantly going up." Instead, McChristian said, he suspected that he might have been transferred at the instigation of Lyndon Johnson's special ambassador to Vietnam, Robert Komer. "Komer came there to take over some of the operations which I had initiated," McChristian told Crile, "and I believe I was looked upon as being in the way of Mr. Komer." →

Those explanations did not appear on camera. Instead, CBS said, "Shortly after Westmoreland suppressed his intelligence chief's report, General Joseph McChristian was transferred out of Vietnam," a strong implication that the report and the transfer were indeed linked.

The 300,000 Ceiling: CBS's "smoking gun" (Sam Adams' term), proving a Westmoreland-led conspiracy, was an order Westmoreland allegedly gave to his MACV delegation attending a National Intelligence Estimates Board meeting at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va. "The head of MACV's delegation told us," said Mike Wallace in the documentary, "that General Westmoreland had, in fact, personally instructed him not to allow the total to go over 300,000."

Crile: "Wasn't there a ceiling put on the estimates by General Westmoreland? Weren't your colleagues instructed, ordered, not to let those estimates exceed a certain amount?"

Col. George Hamscher: "We can't live with a figure higher than so and so."

Crile: "300,000 . . ."

Hamscher: ". . . is the message we got."

"When you look at it," admits Sam Adams, "it looks as if Hamscher is the head of the MACV delegation." George Crile says this juxtaposition of Hamscher was "not intentional." The fact is, of course, that Hamscher was not the head of the MACV delegation. He didn't belong to MACV, but to another branch of military intelligence based in Hawaii.

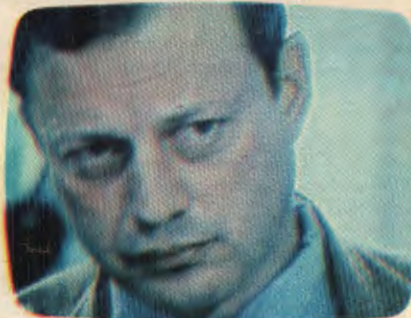
The real head of the MACV delegation—the man CBS says received that order—was Gen. George Godding.

Sam Adams says the reason Godding wasn't identified was "the same old problem . . . the mention of too many names." General Godding has another explanation. He says, "I never quoted any figures" to CBS. Says Godding, "I told CBS that I had the basis to negotiate . . . it was no conspiracy at all. The material that we carried back [to Langley] at that time was the best estimate that we had."

The documentary also said that Col. Gains Hawkins was "carrying out orders

[stipulating a ceiling] that originated from General Westmoreland." But TV GUIDE's examination of CBS's official unedited transcript of the interview with Hawkins reveals that Hawkins told Crile *no fewer than four times* that he had not been given a numerical ceiling before the Langley meeting. Hawkins said to Crile that he had espoused what he felt was the "command position"—the level of enemy strength set at 296,000 by the May order-of-battle report.

Sam Adams became concerned that statements made after the broadcast cast doubt on the show's central premise



Ex-CIA man Adams was CBS's paid consultant.

"Who told you that? Anyone?" asked Crile. "No one told me. I deduced it. And I defended it willingly. I was not given any specific orders," Hawkins told Crile.

All these statements by Hawkins fell to the editing-room floor.

Beyond these pivotal incidents, CBS engaged in various forms of journalistic sleight-of-hand, including quotations taken out of context and their meanings distorted.

In one case, Westmoreland was shown reacting to Col. George Hamscher's account of a Pentagon meeting in August 1967, when military officers allegedly slashed totals of enemy units arbitrarily, to keep under the 300,000 ceiling.

"Now who actually did the cutting, I don't know," said Westmoreland in the documentary. "It could have been my chief of staff. I don't know. But I didn't get involved in this personally."

In the unedited transcript of the Westmoreland interview, however, Westmoreland delivered this statement in response to a question from Wallace about an entirely different meeting—one that took place not at the Pentagon but in Saigon, where the CIA and MACV reached agreement on the order-of-battle controversy.

By inserting Westmoreland's answer to a question about the Saigon meeting after George Hamscher's account in the documentary of a Pentagon meeting, CBS improperly made it seem as if Westmoreland were acknowledging that he knew a Pentagon meeting had occurred.

"Adams has chronicled [the] conspiracy with unbelievable detail all the way to General Westmoreland's doorstep. It is for us to go beyond. . . . The task will be to follow the trail of the conspiracy to see how far up the chain of command it goes."

—George Crile's blue sheet,
Nov. 24, 1980

A few days after Westmoreland and Graham held their press conference to protest the documentary, Sam Adams showed up at CBS. He was concerned, he said, that statements made since the documentary by Rostow and others cast doubt on the show's premise—that Westmoreland had been concealing evidence from Lyndon Johnson.

Adams has since repeated this concern to TV GUIDE. He says that in helping to prepare the CBS show, he felt more acutely than George Crile that the conspiracy originated in the White House, not with Westmoreland. "The problem was," says Adams, "once you get above Westmoreland, my evidence at that time was marginally circumstantial—of the rumor variety."

Now, however, Adams is convinced that Westmoreland was "acting as a go-between rather than an instigator. In other words, he was a deputy sinner, rather than

the chief sinner." Consequently, says Adams, "what I am doing, in my book, is I'm trying to get the smoking guns into the White House."

While Sam Adams strides up Pennsylvania Avenue, eager to plant his fresh conspiracy on the White House lawn, viewers of "The Uncounted Enemy" are left with the memory of a 90-minute documentary misshapen by personal bias and poor supervision. It seems clear from his actions that George Crile began work on the documentary already so firmly convinced of the conspiracy theory that he leaned far too heavily on the expertise of Sam Adams. It is just as clear that he was so persuaded by Adams' view of events that in several instances he failed to include in the documentary information from authoritative sources that cast doubt on Adams'—and Crile's—theory.

It is equally true that Crile's supervisors at CBS News failed to oversee his work effectively. Presumably, it was part of their job to ask tough questions, to demand that their producer explore every lead and make every effort to include all relevant points about the controversy.

We do not know whether Crile and his colleagues were right about General Westmoreland and his military-intelligence operation. We can say, however, that "The Uncounted Enemy" was often arbitrary and unfair in its approach to a subject that surely demanded all the objectivity and thoroughness that the journalists of CBS News could muster.

The network's lapses in the making of this documentary also raise larger questions. Are the network news divisions, with their immense power to influence the public's ideas about politics and recent history, doing enough to keep their own houses in order? If this documentary is any evidence, then the answer may be no. The inaccuracies, distortions and violations of journalistic standards in "The Uncounted Enemy" suggest that television news' "safeguards" for fairness and accuracy need tightening, if not wholesale revision. **END**

BENSON & HEDGES

The Deluxe 100



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That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

16 mg "tar," 1.1 mg nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report Dec. '81.

Full flavor

4 JUN 1982

Clement Road, RFD # 1
Dover, New Hampshire 03820
May 30, 1982

President - CBS News
New York
New York

Dear Sir:

We are writing to protest several blatantly biased and downright untrue stories which have recently been aired on CBS News. These stories are "People Like Us" (Bill Moyers), "Central America in Revolt" and "Uncounted Enemy". These examples have been found flagrantly fraudulent when such magazines as TV Guide have objectively set out to determine the truth, at least with regard to one of these documentaries. CBS continues its long standing disservice to the country in the name of news reporting.

We firmly believe in freedom of speech, but with every freedom comes responsibility - in this case, integrity and CBS has in our opinion been found wanting. People, such as, Dan Rather, Mike Wallace, Bill Moyers, George Crile should be held accountable and dismissed.

We vote the only way we can - by not watching any ~~any~~ documentary or news show (exception - your 7 a.m - 9 a.m news program, which thus far recently appears fair), and by trying to find your list of sponsors and writing them of our dissatisfaction and boycotting their offerings. We regret this approach, but feel we have no other way to express our deep concern for a more responsible media.

Very truly yours,
Robert E. Smith
Mary T. Smith
Robert E. and Mary T. Smith.

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

4 JUN 1982

May 28, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Cribb:

I read in the newspaper that Mr. David Gergen had requested that CBS make available thirty minutes of air time in order that the administration could rebut Bill Moyers program "People Like Us", and that CBS refused.

I was, and am, under the impression that the Fairness Doctrine requires that a network or station make time available to an individual or organization to rebut blatant political statements. "People Like Us" was certainly a blatant political statement and, in addition, was not a truthful one.

Has the Federal Communications Commission stopped functioning? I hope not. The Networks do not own the airways. The American People do. I would hope that the White House would take another look at Mr. Mark Fowler, and the other commissioners at the FCC, and educate them as to the responsibilities of that organization.

Sincerely,



A. D. Pickard

4 JUN 1982

SAMUEL A. BALKAN, P. E.

CONSULTING ENGINEER

85 GROVE STREET, SUITE 112
WELLESLEY, MASS. 02181

June 2, 1982

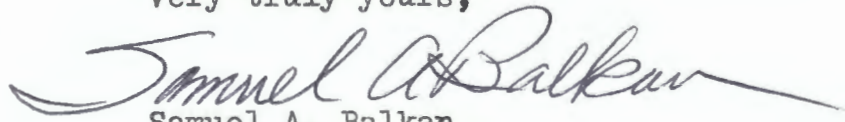
Mr. Kenneth Cribb
Deputy Counsellor to President
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Cribb:

I would like to urge the President to take whatever action is required to insure that broadcasting "Fairness Doctrine" is expanded and vigorously enforced by the F.C.C. I find it to be shocking that the F.C.C. chairman should be talking about eliminating the "Fairness Doctrine" at a time when the electronic media are spreading propoganda over the air which can only be compared to the best efforts of Hitler and Stalin.

We all worked hard to insure the election of President Reagan and are apalled by the treasonable, lying propoganda directed against America and our President by the media who seem to be doing the work of the Soviets in trying to destroy our form of government.

Very truly yours,


Samuel A. Balkan

4 JUN 1982

MEMO

From the desk of . . .

LEE KOELFGEN, SR.

25212 Stockport Dr. 71
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
(714) 768-9241

6/2/82

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

Dear Mr. Cribb:

Due to Bill Moyers "bad mouthing this Administration on CBS I highly recommend the enforcement and preservation of the Fairness Doctrine.

Moyer is basing his illogic on many false premises in his effort to be "sensational". A better word would be dishonest.

Most Sincerely,

Lee Koelfgen, Sr.

4 JUN 1982

773 Mile Sq. Rd
Yorkville, N.Y. 10704
June 2, 1982

Mr Kenneth Cribb (Dep. Counselor to the Pres.)

White House

Washington, D.C

Dear Sir,

I urge you to strengthen and to support the Fairness Doctrine.

Daily we are a captive audience of the distorted, inaccurate and often slanted programming of the network stations.

They rip the President's case on everything from National Defense to the economy. We see only selected dramatic cases of results from his cuts on entitlement programs

These are designed to make their point never mind if not exactly true, as can be proven if some one took the time to answer them. And other subjects as well.

Something must be done,
Many of us are doing our

part by writing to the
sponsors -

However we cannot do this
alone. It is time that FCC were
more forceful. Mr Fowler should
have his staff be more
diligent in enforcing the
fairness doctrine.

How is it that when the
President or anyone supporting
his policies is on the air - the
stations immediately put on
some one with an opposing
view point. But when someone
like Bill Moyers is on with all
manner of inaccuracies no
one is allowed to come on the
air to give their point of view

I feel that television -
especially CBS are waging
a political campaign
against the administration
and are winning.

are you going to let them
get away with this? How
can the President get his
program across if you
don't help him?

Sincerely,
Lillie Remack

- 4 JUN 1982

June 2, 1982

Mr. Kenneth Cribb

Deputy Counselor to the President.

Dear Mr. Cribb:

I am sick & tired of hearing the media - mostly in the form of TV news - deliberately misrepresent & distort the facts - apparently with the aim of discrediting our Gov't. & in particular, the President.

Its long past time that the Fairness Doctrine be effectively enforced. I urge that ^{some} immediate action be taken - especially against CBS for its blatant lies in the Bill Moyers program and in its hatchet job on Gen. Westmoreland - and in many other items.

The Gov't tries to protect its people against bad consumer products - yet it do something to protect its people against such distortions & manipulations

of the truth.

Doesn't the President know that these people are killing him & that that's what they want to do.

I think President Reagan should throw Mark Fowler, head of the PCC and the other commission members out on their butts - and right now.

Hoping to see some action

Most Sincerely

James W. Galloway



James Galloway
1131 Kimberly Rd
Bethlehem PA
18018

4 JUN 1982

Shelbyville, Ky
May 28, 1982

Kenneth Cribb
Deputy Counselor to the President
Dear Sir:

It makes me sick that such distorted programs as Bill Moyers' 'People Like Us' are allowed to be shown as the whole truth. What has become of the Fairness Doctrine? This nation is in the hands of the T.V. networks. It means a small group of self appointed persons believe they should run the nation. These persons have too much power. I suggest that the net works be reduced, or that the Fairness Doctrine be strongly enforced.

I, for one, question almost every pronouncement N.B.C., C.B.S. and A.B.C. makes.

Yours truly

Mrs. G.S. Cunningham

R 1 Box 235

Shelbyville, Ky 40065

4 JUN 1982

Mary Margaret Weiners
5251 Jason - Houston, Tx. 77096

June 1, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Cribb,

What has happened to
the "Fairness Doctrine"?

On April 21, CBS Reports
aired a program called "People
Like Us" which charged the
Reagan Administration was
being beastly to the truly needy!!

I'd like to know why the
Federal Communication Commission
did not insist on a rebuttal
by the Administration. I

understand Mark Fowler-head
of the FCC would like to have
the "Fairness Doctrine" repealed!!
Why is that??

As a long time supporter
of Pres. Reagan I am appalled
at some of the liberal view-
points expressed by the White
House. What has happened to
all the President's conservative
advisors?

I'd appreciate a reply
to the questions I have raised.

Thank you in advance,
Sincerely, Mary Margaret Demers
(Mrs. Edwin P. J.)

4 JUN 1982

RT-1. Box 5078
PECHLAND, WA. 99352
5-31-82

Mr. Kenneth Cribb.
Deputy Counselor to the President

Dear Sir:

I'm regard to C.B.S. documentaries, recently aired, under the titles of "Central America in Revolt" and "People like us" how about enforcing the Fairness Doctrine and refute some of the falsehoods in these two documentaries, and ~~show~~^{LET} the White House have a chance for rebuttal and tell the people the truth.

I am very concerned ~~at~~ by this state of affairs and urge you to use your influence to help correct the situation.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Hall.

5 JUN 1982

Frederic H. Miller
~~Rural Route 3, Box 930A~~
Merritt Island, Florida 32952
11150 S. Tropical Trail
5/30/82

Mr. Kenneth Cribb
Deputy Counselor to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Cribb:

This letter is to express my opinion that the course being followed by the administration, in the person of Enosh Fowler, head of the FCC is absolutely wrong when it comes to the fairness doctrine.

He wants to abandon it.

He should be trying to strengthen it.

TV is a tool too powerful to fall into the hands of advocacy journalism. It must be treated as a public trust.

Stop this nonsense before real damage is done.

Sincerely,
Frederic H. Miller

5 JUN 1982

Barnard G. Sharrow
55 Granby Lane
Willingboro, N. J. 08046
609-871-9411

June 2, 1982

Kenneth Cribb
Deputy Counselor to the President
White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Cribb:

The CBS Reports program: "People Like Us" aired on Apr. 21 was an unconscionable massacre of the President. Bill Moyers would never have tried it if he had to operate within the fairness doctrine.

President Reagan's appointee FCC Commissioner Mark Fowler believes the requirement of the doctrine is too burdensome for the privileged few who dominate the airwaves. Fowler has fouled the atmosphere. Without the force of the doctrine listeners must go on having one-sided propaganda forced into their consciousness or to turn off the set. After generations of this the hope that a conservative administration would offer relief proves vapid. Two weeks ago PBS argued out an elaborate case for the Polisario. There will be no rebuttal. I watched it in helpless disgust.

Conservatives have been captives of liberal control of the broadcasting industry too long. We need the simple requirement of the fairness doctrine to release us from this bondage. Please let the President know this.

Sincerely yours,

Barnard G. Sharrow

17 JUN 1982

LAW OFFICES

FUHRER & FLOURNOY

P. O. BOX 1270 900 FOISY AVENUE

TELEPHONE (318) 487-9858

ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA 71301

LEONARD FUHRER
GEORGE A. FLOURNOY
PHILIP G. HUNTER

PAUL G. CREED
OF COUNSEL

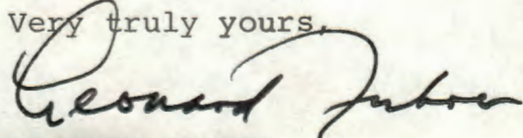
June 3, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Cribb:

I am concerned over the failure of the FCC to enforce the Fairness Doctrine, especially as it might apply to certain CBS documentaries. There may be political reasons for not wanting to enforce the law in this regard, but I doubt they could outweigh the harm being done by letting fairness complaints be ignored or rejected because of the personal attitude of persons charged with administering the FCC laws and regulations.

If the administration is too afraid of the national networks to enforce the law, the administration may not be entitled to the support of persons who recognize unfairness (particularly on the part of CBS) but see no effort being made to reveal and counter same.

Very truly yours,

LEONARD FUHRER

LF/ug

7 JUN 1982
Dear Mr. Crabb

17 Bronco dr
Rancho PV, Ca. 90274
June 3, 1982

We are very concerned over programs such as CBS presented recently with Bill Moyers called "People Like Us".

We would like Mr. Fowler & her staff at the Federal Communications Commission to be more careful and stringent in enforcing the Fairness doctrine.

Please do all that you can to see that this doctrine is employed so that controversial issues will be fairly presented by both sides.

Most sincerely,
dr. + Mrs. Sam. Powell

Fauvel
17 Bronco
Rancho, Pl, Ca
90274



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

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7 JUN 1982 MEMO

From

Mary Ha Morrison

6-2-82



Dear Sir -

For goodness sake do something about the Fairness Doctrine - I enclose a clipping -

Also Ted Kennedy appeared on a morning show not long ago hyping a book he has written - I can't tell you much about it because I was not in the TV room but heard a bit. Parade also featured a glowing heart article about him recently - I don't care how you spell it - he killed a young woman & rides on his name - It will get worse so please enforce a least what we have - Sincerely
Mrs. Morrison

The Opposition in Control

The White House was upset about the Moyers' program even before it aired. White House Communications Director David Gergen pointed out that Moyers had made no effort to include in the program an administration spokesman, nor had he asked the administration for any comment on the serious charges he was making. After the program aired, Gergen asked the president of CBS News, Van Gordon Sauter, to make available a half hour of time on the network to permit the administration to air a reply to the Moyers' program. Mr. Sauter refused that request, saying that CBS News had in the past and would in the future air administration points of view. They would not give the administration time to reply specifically to the Moyers' program.

This arrogant response is exactly what one would expect from an organization that behaves as if it were

part of the political opposition to the administration. The preparation of the program with misleading cases and ignoral of contrasting viewpoints marked it from the beginning as a political statement, not an objective news story. Moyers told one interviewer that he didn't think it was any more appropriate to seek out the administration viewpoint to include in the program than it would be to ask a murderer, caught in the act, for his side of the story. Bill Moyers perhaps forgot momentarily that even murderers are permitted to plead not guilty and to offer a defense. Moyers and CBS News see no need to extend that privilege to the President. As they did with General Westmoreland and so many others, they found him guilty on the basis of the evidence they assembled. They don't want to spoil their case by acknowledging the existence of conflicting evidence.

It would have spoiled Moyers' program to have included the facts about safety net spending that were given to the press by Dr. Robert Rubin, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Rubin stated: "Safety net spending under President Reagan is not going down, but is going up—both in actual dollars and as a percentage of the federal budget. Spending on safety net programs was 37% of the total budget in 1981 and will climb to 39% in 1984. At the Department of HHS alone, our proposed Fiscal Year 1983 budget contains an increase of \$20 billion, or eight per cent—from \$253.9 billion to \$274.2 billion."

Hoist By Its Own Petard

It is doubtful that CBS would have been quite so cavalier in using its powerful facilities to perform this hatchet job on the President if this administration had shown any disposition to enforce the Fairness Doctrine. This is a legal requirement that broadcasters who permit controversial issues of public importance to be discussed over their facilities provide a reasonable opportunity for all points of view to be heard.

Unfortunately for President Reagan, the man he appointed to head the Federal Communications Commission, Mark Fowler, believes that this simple requirement of fairness is unduly burdensome to those who have been given the privilege of operating radio and television stations. Fowler and a majority of his fellow commissioners have asked Congress to repeal this provision of the law. They want broadcasters to have the very same rights to be partisan, unfair, deceptive and even pornographic that newspapers, magazines, and movie producers now enjoy. While Mr. Fowler has said that he will uphold the Fairness Doctrine as long as it is on the books, his staff has already rejected an Accuracy in Media complaint against CBS over their persistently one-sided presentations of the charge that the FBI smeared the late Jean Seberg, causing her grievous emotional damage. Despite the fact that this story has done serious damage to the reputation of the FBI and has generated hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles and radio and television broadcasts, the FCC staff said that AIM had failed to demonstrate that the matter was either of public importance or controversial.

7 JUN 1982

2412-118 Feather Hill Blvd
Calistoga Ca 94515

Dear Mr. Crabb,

we most certainly believe the "Fairness
Doctrine" should be enforced.

CBS and other media is getting away with
filling the American people, distortions, bias
outright lies in their documentaries and
news reports. "People Like Us" is a good
example of their outright lies. Something
should be done to make them more
truthful.

Sincerely,
Mr + Mrs Norman Johnson



Mr Kenneth Criss
White House
Washington DC
20500

© USPS 1981

7 JUN 1982

George P. LaBorde
500 Capitol Tower
Salem, Oregon 97301
June 3, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Cribb:

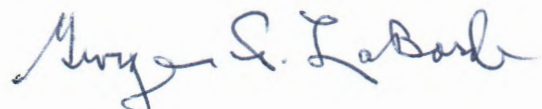
"Accuracy in Media" issue of May 11, 1982 reports that Bill Moyers of CBS Reports charged that the Reagan adm. is being beastly toward the truly needy. I saw the program but it took Reed Irvine to bring out the real facts. Moyers further stated, according to AIM, that he didn't think it was any more necessary to seek out the administration than to ask a murderer, caught in that act, for his side of the story.

Had the administration enforced the "Fairness Doctrine" which AIM states is a legal requirement that broadcasters who permit controversial issues of public importance to be discussed over their facilities, then they must provide a reasonable opportunity for all points of view to be heard.

It appears that Mark Fowler, who Pres. Reagan appointed to head the Federal Communications Comm. believes that this simple requirement of fairness is unduly burdensome to those who have been given the privilege of operating radio and television stations. AIM states it has already entered a complaint with Mark Fowler's staff, which they rejected. If the administration is no more interested in defending its positions than that, then I have lost my interest in any further contributions which come through the mail so frequently.

I am strongly of the opinion that people have the "right to know" from the media - yes, the right to know the facts but opinions should be labeled as such or they are just propaganda. Someone in the administration had better ride horse on the FCC - if it really means what it says it does in speeches and newspapers.

Very truly yours,



7 JUN 1982

NOELL, GROVES & WHITE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
2310 AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46601

H. THEODORE NOELL
JAMES F. GROVES
JAMES E. WHITE

TELEPHONE
(219) 232-7946

June 2, 1982

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

IN RE: Continued Distortion of the News

Dear Mr. Cribb:

It appears that CBS has continued to deliberately distort the news as shown in the dissemination of programs including "Central America in Revolt" and "People Like Us," both of which deviated substantially from anything that could be called a factual and fair representation of the facts and both of which denied adequate opportunity for response. Although I have not yet had an opportunity to read the article, it appears that the current issue of TV Guide is endeavoring to make this situation more public.

It is my understanding that under the Fairness Doctrine, the Federal Communications Commission could direct that CBS make available adequate time for an appropriate response by the President as well as by General Westmoreland. Unfortunately, adequate effort has not been made to require enforcement of the Fairness Doctrine and I would urge that steps be taken since, in these particularly troubled times, both economically and otherwise, we can ill afford for the public to be sold a bill of goods by distorted reporting of the news by those who may have a particular interest not revealed to viewers.

Anything that you can do to bring about a more even-handed reporting of news and less distortion of it to the detriment of this administration as well as the vast majority of the American public will be sincerely appreciated.

Very truly yours,



H. Theodore Noell

HTN/bjn

8 JUN 1982

Ridgway, Il., 6-4-1982

Mr. Kenneth Cribb,
Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of the fairness doctrine. Free speech does not mean that one can yell fire: in a crowded theater nor do I think they should be able to destroy confidence in and eventually pick our country to pieces with lies and slanted news that should be answered with truth.

Our family recently watched People Like Us on CBS and were thoroughly disgusted, we see slanted news continually, it seems they will take one step backward then two forward in order to put over their propoganda and CBS is not alone in this. I have often believed their stories only to later find I had been taken. Some of these stories appeal to emotions, stirring many people up to hate etc. Why not permit true answers to these hate programs?

That is what I thought to be the purpose of the FCC. I have long supported Pres. Reagan and hoped he would do something on this so I might be able to believe most of what I heard on TV. I believe that exposure of their slant in some cases might bring more truth to TV.

Sincerely

Blair Miner

9 JUN 1982

P. O. Box 84
Montreat, N. C. 28757

June 7, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Cribb,

I write to urge that you do everything possible to influence President Reagan to enforce the Fairness Doctrine with respect to the electronic media and especially with reference to such programs as the recent CBS "People Like Us" program.

Please also ask the President to consider replacement of Federal Communications Commissioner, Mark Fowler, with someone who will uphold the Fairness Doctrine.

Sincerely,

Geoff Smith

Member of The Presidential Task Force

9 JUN 1982

340 Allen Creek Rd
Rochester NY 14618
May 25, 1982

Mr Kenneth Cuthb.
Deputy Counselor to the President.

Dear Mr Cuthb:

The latest attacks by the
CBS Bill Moyers in his
presentation "People Like Us"
deserve a rebuttal and
equal time to present the
real facts and correct the
distortions and bias that is
so evident in CBS

The Fairness Doctrine should
be preserved and enforced
on all the efforts of the
President to redress the
problem of abuse of present
programs and the vast amount
of help available to the poor
will be lost

Sincerely
Gordon Wardrip

9 JUN 1982

St. George and The Dragon

Saloon & Cafe



E. B. CRANEY, Prop.

250 South 300 East † St. George, Utah - 84770

June 5, 1982

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

Re: FAIRNESS DOCTRINE

The kind of press and broadcasting was never envisioned by the writers of our Constitution. Commentators of old turned out pamphlets. There was no printing of identical papers in multiple cities. There was no broadcasting where most stations are devoted to show business and but very few are devoted to news, where all are devoted to ratings.

This writer lived in Montana where all but one daily newspaper in the State was owned by The Anaconda Company. Where the Company furnished newsprint to all the weeklies. There was no freedom of press there. If The Company didnt want something known it simply wasnt printed. When something was printed it was only their version.

Today we have a very poorly policed Fairness Doctrine for broadcasting. We know not true from false. Some place along the line RESPONSIBILITY must be breathed into the broadcast act.. Some very smart people had better do some serious thinking on the subject. Getting rid of the Fairness Doctrine is not the answer. Creating super stations which gives one person coverage of the whole Country is not the answer. Satellite to home broadcasting is all but here, it can be commanded by the group with the biggest gun. To keep our USA of 50 States we must encourage local broadcasting so many voices , not a few, will be heard. The power to control a vast number of minds by one person, one group is not good, it is evil. We must give voice to many. We must insist upon responsibility in our communication media.

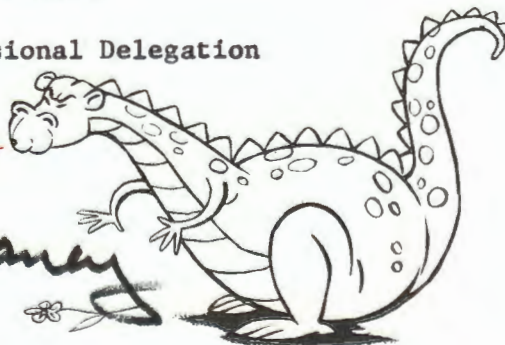
E.B.Craney

Copies to Utah Congressional Delegation



E.B. Craney

(801) 628-1948



10 JUN 1982

MRS. LAWRENCE H. BUCHANAN
3903 SAGAMORE DRIVE
GREENSBORO, N. C. 27410

June 5, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Gibb,

We (my husband and I) are deeply disturbed by the way TV distorts and even lies about the Reagan administration, especially the budget cuts to social programs.

It is particularly dismaying to discover that the new head of the Fed. Communications Commission, Mark Fowler,

MRS. LAWRENCE H. BUCHANAN
3903 SAGAMORE DRIVE
GREENSBORO, N. C. 27410

wishes, not to enforce but to eliminate
the present "fairness doctrine" requiring
broadcasters to give free time to individ-
uals their programs have attacked.

Thus CBS felt quite safe in
refusing to grant time to the Reagan
administration to reply to the utterly
false attack made by Bill Moyere
"People Like Us" "documentary" April 21.
Similarly CBS refused to permit General
Westmoreland to reply to the unfair
"documentary" portraying Westmoreland as
practically a traitor in the Vietnam War.

MRS. LAWRENCE H. BUCHANAN
3903 SAGAMORE DRIVE
GREENSBORO, N. C. 27410

Please bring this matter to the attention of the President, and do whatever possible to restore enforcement of the "fairness doctrine."

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Buchanan

10 JUN 1982

insta-gram

ROBERT E. T. STARK, M.D.

(602) 248-7852

444 West Osborn Road

Phoenix, Arizona 85013

Dear Sir:

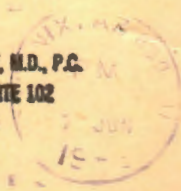
K8

June 5, 1982

Since we have a Fairness Doctrine,
 I am appalled that the accuracy in media
 complaint about ^{the} CBS handling of the
 Lehman affair and the recent Molyneux hatchet
 job on President Reagan, has not been upheld
 by the F.C.C.!

Robert Stark, M.D.

ROBERT E. T. STARK, M.D., P.C.
444 W. OSBORN, SUITE 102
PHOENIX, AZ 85013
(602) 248-7852



Kenneth Cribb
% The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

10 JUN 1982



CAMPBELL'S LIST · INC ·

SINCE 1879

THE LAWYERS' GUIDE TO OUT-OF-TOWN COUNSEL
CAMPBELL BUILDING • MAITLAND • FLORIDA • 32751

June 8, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Cribb:

I have been particularly concerned for some time now that I am seeing on my TV some very biased, unfair and even untruthful CBS News programs. To illustrate, Bill Moyers whose "Central America in Revolt" and People Like Us" have contained serious and unsubstantiated charges against our current Administration. If, in these instances, Bill Moyers is permitted to swing his politically motivated machete, CBS has a very definite obligation to air the Administration's defense against such charges. I have failed to note any desire of CBS to make air time available to any persons who dare to differ with Bill Moyers and have some very succinct arguments to present.

What became of the Fairness Doctrine that required broadcasters of controversial issues of public importance to provide reasonable opportunities for the other side to be heard? I am informed that Commissioner Mark Fowler is very luke-warm regarding his obligation to enforce it, with the result that viewers are being blasted with anti-administration propaganda without ever having the opportunity to weigh the facts.

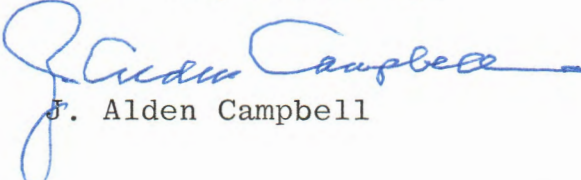
If there is one thing the public needs to know at this time it is the truth about what is going on here and abroad. If the TV news media continue to color the truth, stretch it and form it to fit the views of their partisan theorists, a great disservice is being done under the guise of public education. The Fairness Doctrine is a very essential ingredient in the dissemination of programs such as those I have mentioned above.

Mr. Kenneth Cribb
Page 2.

June 8, 1982

I urge you to bring to the attention of President Reagan the reaction of thinking people who make their own decisions after hearing all sides and are not prone to follow the "Moyers" like sheep to slaughter. It is absolutely essential that the Fairness Doctrine be enforced, regardless of what Mark Fowler may think concerning its usefulness.

Yours very sincerely,



J. Alden Campbell

JAC:bf

10 JUN 1982

Mrs. Neal S. Wood, Jr.
4775 Pine Drive, Miami, Florida 33143

6-7-82

Dear Mr. Crabb,

It is essential to the health and welfare of this country that the "Fairness Doctrine" be preserved - one way or another it is the public that pass the bill and we deserve a good & fair look at both sides -

Why should an ex Press Secretary go without a rebuttal when the President can't have the same privilege?

Sincerely yours
Margaret F. Wood

11 JUN 1982

6/8/82

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

Dear Mr. Cribb:

Is it not time for enforcement and preservation of the Fairness Doctrine?

Failure to do so invites further programs aimed at discrediting the administration, such as "Central America in Revolt" by Bill Moyers on CBS; also, "People Like Us" aired April 21st by same network and same reporter. (Both deplorable)

The opposition of the media must be deterred if we are to survive as a free nation. We should use all lawful means to counter the deception foisted upon the populace.

Sincerely,

Dorothea J. Welhelmy
33796 Linda Vista Lane
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

14 JUN 1982

DALE W. RITTER, M.D., MEDICAL CORP.

GYNECOLOGY

572 RIO LINDO PHONE 342-1878

CHICO, CALIFORNIA 95926

June 8, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Cribb,

Because of the need and right of the American people to receive the truth, facts, and both sides of the news, the Fairness Doctrine should be enforced.

The news media should assume their responsibility to present unbiased accounts of news events, free from political or advocacy slant. But if they do choose to present biased accounts, then measures should be taken to force them to let the other side be heard.

Sincerely,

Dale W. Ritter, M.D.

Dale W. Ritter, M.D.

14 JUN 1982

MR KENNETH CRIBB
DEPUTY COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20500

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE WATCHED MANY BROADCASTS WHICH WERE
TENDENTIOUS, CALOMNIOUS, ONE SIDED, DISTORTED, UNTRUE
AND UNFAIR.

IN SIMILAR FASHION TO BROADCASTS AIRED IN GULAG
COUNTRIES, SERIOUS CHARGES ARE MADE WITHOUT
GIVING THE OPPORTUNITY OF A REPLY.

(EX: CBS BILL MOYERS' "PEOPLE LIKE US" AND OTHERS)

I BELIEVE THAT THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE SHOULD BE
ENFORCED AND PRESERVED.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

YOURS SINCERELY

Oliver Stefan Stamen

16 JUN 1982

6-11-82

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

Dear Mr Cribb,

I am writing to inform you of the deep disgust aroused in me by a certain Mr. Mark Fowler. Appointed by President Reagan (who I'm sure, is equally disgusted with this man's work!) to head the Federal Communications Commission, Mr Fowler has repeatedly negated his duty of upholding the Fairness Doctrine in television, especially concerning several very questionable commentaries aired by CBS-TV, "People like Us" and "Central America in Revolt".

Mr Fowler and his staff apparently seem to be condoning the distorted reporting of these programs.

I demand that the Fairness Doctrine

be upheld and I wish to know why such
one sided reporting was allowed, and furthermore,
why the White House has not been allowed to
tell its side of the story!

Thank you Mr. Cribb, for your time
and trouble!

Sincerely,

Bill Rice
1115 Sunset Drive
Clarion, PA 16214

16 JUN 1982

RICHARD A. WALL
3 LUCKENBACH LANE
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK 11050

June 14 1982

Mr. Kenneth Cribb
Deputy Counselor
The White House,
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

May I add my encourage-
ment to further enforcement of
the "Farmer Doctrine". The television
media are in constant violation
as they distort commentary —
Bill Moyers. "People Like Us" —
Time + Newsweek constant inference
that President Reagan is "against
the poor + favoring the Rich" —
make them put up or
shut up — it is undermining our
government.

R. A. Wall

16 JUN 1982

GNP / *Good News Publishers*

9825 WEST ROOSEVELT ROAD / WESTCHESTER, ILLINOIS 60153 / TELEPHONE (312) 345-7474

June 11, 1982

Mr. Kenneth Cribb
Deputy Counselor for the President
White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Cribb,

In regard to the Fairness Doctrine I could not agree with you more in fact that it has not been adjudicated without bias. However, it is a desperately needed doctrine that should be fairly enforced.

Granted it is much easier to ignore the power of the media and its ability to distort facts not only for entertainment but for left-of-center bias. Consider the statement of one senior commentator:

We are left of center because our professors at the university were and are.

The lack of maturity in judgment and inability to learn from recent and past history is a common and dangerous fault of the media revealed by the above statement.

Part of the caring majority,

Mrs. Clyde H. Dennis
Mrs. Clyde H. Dennis, President

MD:ew



...for You

Someone cares for *you*. He knows your present circumstances. He knows your very thoughts. And He is calling to you now: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," Matthew 11:28.

Rest—*real rest*—from the burdens of life, is what Jesus Christ offers you. Rest from fear and guilt, from worry and frustration, from loneliness and disappointment.

If you are struggling under life's pressures, He offers to bear your burdens *with* you: "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light," Matthew 11:29,30.

If you are searching for peace of mind and soul, He offers you *His* peace: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid," John 14:27.

Yes, Jesus cares for you. He, God the Son, became a man to redeem you from the consequences of sin. In His 33 years on earth He suffered rejection, abuse and cruelty. He endured hunger, thirst and pain. And He died upon the Cross of Calvary to fulfill God's plan of salvation: "He was wounded for *our* transgressions, He was bruised for *our* iniquities: the chastisement of *our* peace was upon Him; and with His stripes *we* are healed," Isaiah 53:5. When He arose from the grave He triumphed over sin and death, promising all who will receive Him: "Because I live, ye shall live also," John 14:19.

You can be sure that this very moment Jesus cares for you and wants to meet your needs. For the risen Savior is both *God* and *man*: being man He understands your every need; being God He is able to deliver you.

Because Jesus is the risen Son of God, He has power to forgive your sins and give you new, eternal life: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead,

thou shalt be saved," Romans 10:9.

Because Jesus lived upon earth as a man, He understands your feelings and needs. Through His Spirit He offers you inner peace and strength. Through His people He offers encouragement and companionship. Through His Word, the Bible, He reveals a new way of living in harmony with God and man. And He Himself stands at the right hand of God in Heaven representing those who have put their trust in Him. "Let us therefore come *boldly* unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need," Hebrews 4:16.

Yes, come to Jesus Christ today. Receive Him as your Savior and Friend. Then you too can know that truth, power and sympathy are found in one glorious Person, the Lord Jesus Christ. —JWS

If you would like more information on the Christian life, write to the address below for helpful Christian literature.



6C02

Good News Publishers / a nonprofit corporation
9825 W. Roosevelt Rd. / Westchester, IL 60153



39 Grey Lane
Lynnfield, Massachusetts, 01940
June 14, 1982

Mr. Kenneth Crib, Deputy Counselor
White House - Cabinet Member
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Crib:

What's going on these days at the FCC? Last year there was the Mike Wallace - FBI - Jean Seberg Slap in which Mike broadcast facts that were known to be false.

Next I learn that the Mike Wallace (again) 60 Minute Program on General Westmoreland contained information also known to be false. Of particular outrage is the news that one Sam Adams, the major source of the Westmoreland story was paid \$25,000 as a "consultant" and then actually rehearsed for his so called unrehearsed interview.

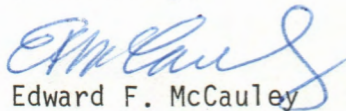
And then, to top it off, it turns out that Bill Moyers in his program, "People Like Us", Moyers used false nonexistent cases to prove his charge that governmental safety-net programs are not working.

While I am generally not in favor of regulation, it seems that CBS is continuing to broadcast lies, errors, and distortions with impunity. When the public views news programs it has the right to expect fairness and accuracy.

In the cases cited above, those accused by CBS of wrongdoing have been unable to obtain the time for a suitable reply.

It seems to me that the FCC is not doing its job properly under the leadership of Mark Fowler. If he doesn't want to do the job he was appointed to, he ought to get out.

Yours truly,



Edward F. McCauley

From
17 JUN 1982

SIDNEY G. HARRIS
2525N ALVERNON WA
TUCSON, ARIZ.
85712



AIM
AIM

Lt. Col. USAF
RET

REPORT
REPORT



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Reed Irvine, Editor

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No. 11

CBS STALLS

The CBS annual shareholders meeting on April 21 in Boston brought forth a new tactic in the CBS search for a way of dealing with the embarrassing questions and criticisms raised by Accuracy in Media at these meetings. This year the solution was to decline to go to the mat with AIM Chairman Reed Irvine. CBS President Thomas Wyman listened politely to what Irvine had to say but carefully avoided answering most of his questions and charges about the conduct of CBS News.

Irvine began the one-sided discussion by opposing the election of Walter Cronkite to the CBS board of directors. He said: "Mr. Cronkite has demonstrated over the years a singular obtuseness on the security of the United States and what seems to be a naive trust in the Soviet Union. During the Vietnam war, he converted a military victory that our forces won on the battlefield at Tet, early in 1968, into a stunning psychological defeat for the United States by his reporting. He described it as a defeat when he knew very well that it was a victory. That was Walter Cronkite's great contribution to the Vietnam war.

"He demonstrated his naivete about the Soviet Union and communism in an interview he gave a Soviet journalist named Vitali Kobysh in 1979. In that interview, he agreed with Kobysh that it was 'a myth' to talk of the 'Soviet threat.' He was quoted as saying, 'I will never believe in a Soviet threat.' He told Kobysh that he had never agreed with the idea that the Soviet Union menaces someone and that the Soviet people were preparing for war. That interview was published in Moscow before the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Cronkite told Kobysh that he wanted to tell his readers that 'I consider myself a friend of your country.'

"When he was questioned about the interview Cronkite asserted that he had been misquoted, but he could not locate the tapes that he made of the interview, and, to my knowledge, he never demanded any corrections from the Soviet magazine that published the story. Even after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Cronkite apparently learned nothing about Soviet disinformation or the nature of their system. He interviewed two obvious

Soviet disinformation agents, Gen. Milshtein and Alexander Bobin, on the CBS documentary, 'The Defense of the United States,' last summer. He provided them with a fine national platform to spread disinformation about the Soviet military build-up and the alleged Soviet non-involvement in the movements to spread communist domination in Africa and Central America.

"Only last February, speaking in Portland, Oregon, Cronkite said that the United States should help countries such as El Salvador 'achieve their goals even if it means interim steps of socialism and communism.' I wish Mr. Cronkite were here. I would like to ask him if he knows of any country in the last 64 years that has passed through communism as an 'interim step.'

"Mr. Wyman, just yesterday a journalist who was in my office said that any journalist stationed in the Soviet Union for any lengthy period of time that came away without feeling and expressing strong revulsion for the communist totalitarian system must be suspected of having been recruited. Mr. Cronkite was in Moscow in 1946-48. I would very much like to know, if Mr. Cronkite were here, if he could cite any articles, speeches or broadcasts which he has made in recent years in which he has clearly enunciated his revulsion for the communist system."

Mr. Wyman responded: "Thank you for your comment. One of the wonderful things about Mr. Walter Cronkite is that I don't have to take time at this moment to defend his credentials or the level of trust in which he is held." No effort was made to rebut any of the charges that he had shown himself to be naive about the Soviets and communism.

The Case for an Ombudsman at CBS

An AIM resolution calling upon CBS to consider hiring an ombudsman or viewers' advocate to investigate and press for correction of inaccurate and unfair programs that were the subject of viewer complaints had been included in the CBS proxy material. In moving the resolution, Irvine pointed out that in September 1981,

CBS News had aired a highly inaccurate and unfair program about the difficulties in integrating state-owned institutions of higher learning in North Carolina. Although substantial progress toward integration had been made, CBS, using old film clips of Gov. George Wallace of Alabama, created the impression that North Carolina had been defying federal orders to integrate its college system.

The program had angered educators, officials and editors in North Carolina. It was labeled "essentially false journalism" and "a bloody hatchet job" by respected newspapers. The president of the University of North Carolina protested to CBS, pointing out numerous flaws in the program, including its failure to cite any of the indicators of progress toward integration. Irvine said that despite all of these criticisms it was doubtful that CBS would have responded to any of these complaints had it not been for the intervention of the CBS Affiliates Advisory Board, which happened to be headed by a North Carolinian. Thanks to their protest, CBS aired a program the following week which helped set the record straight. Irvine cited this as the kind of action that he hoped could be obtained by a good ombudsman genuinely dedicated to accuracy and fairness.

The AIM chairman pointed out that CBS had behaved far differently in response to other serious complaints. For example, nothing had ever been done by CBS News to set the record straight concerning the false reports it had aired concerning the alleged FBI responsibility for the mental problems of the late Jean Seberg, the actress. AIM had discussed this case at length at the CBS annual meeting in Phoenix, Ariz. in 1981. Bill Leonard, then the president of CBS News, had admitted that the CBS decision not to report that the FBI files on Seberg had exonerated the FBI of the charge that it had spread nasty stories about her was "a close call." He had revealed that CBS was planning to do a program about Seberg, and he said that he thought AIM would like it, implying that it would set the record straight. That program, a Mike Wallace profile of Jean Seberg, had aired on November 17, 1981. It not only failed to correct the earlier erroneous stories aired by CBS News, but it intensified the smear of the FBI.

Irvine said: "But the protests of AIM and the many members of the public who have written to you have been of no avail. What was a close call to Mr. Leonard in the spring of 1981 suddenly became a closed book in November. Mr. Leonard was not even willing to concede that the editing of a tape of a phone conversation between Seberg and her Black Panther boyfriend to make it fit the CBS theme was journalistically questionable, even though it was a clear violation of the CBS News Standards on editing.... This is not carelessness or incompetence. It is sheer dishonesty."

The Westmoreland Case

As additional evidence of the need for an official at CBS News who would vigorously press for accuracy and fairness, Irvine outlined the grave injustice that CBS News had done to Gen. William Westmoreland in its documentary, "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam

Deception," which was aired last January. That documentary accused Gen. Westmoreland and his staff in Vietnam of conspiring to understate the Vietcong strength in the fall and winter of 1967-68 for political reasons. This was a modification of a much bigger conspiracy theory that had been alleged for many years by a former CIA analyst named Sam Adams.

Those charges had been discredited long since. CBS revived them even though they had abundant evidence that Adams' charges were false. They had taped a three-hour interview with Dr. Walt W. Rostow, former special assistant to President Johnson, in which he explained in detail why Adams' charges were nonsense. Not one second of that interview was shown on the program because it contradicted the point that CBS was determined to make, right or wrong.

After discussing several of the dishonest elements of the Westmoreland program, which we have exposed in earlier AIM Reports, Irvine said: "General Westmoreland, Amb. Ellsworth Bunker, Dr. George Carver, and several of the general's senior staff officers held a press conference in Washington shortly after your program was aired. They demolished the program and its ill-founded allegations. CBS had an opportunity to correct the record by airing some substantial portion of their rebuttal. Only about 90 seconds on the press conference was aired on the CBS Evening News, half of that devoted to repeating the original charges. No time was allowed for any factual refutation of those charges. Gen. Westmoreland deserves better than this... as do numerous other victims of trial by television over the CBS network. The adoption of our proposal for a viewers' advocate or ombudsman will be an important first step in this process."

Four other speakers rose to denounce CBS's treatment of Gen. Westmoreland, but regrettably, fewer than six percent of the shares were voted in favor of this proposal, compared to over nine percent last year. This means that we will not be entitled to submit this resolution again next year. Irvine also suggested that Mike Wallace be fired because of the seriously flawed programs that he had been associated with, including the Seberg profile and the Westmoreland hatchet job. That suggestion was greeted with applause from the audience but it got no support from management.

We Aren't Giving Up

Frustrated by Mr. Wyman's refusal to debate the issues raised or justify the actions CBS had taken, Irvine asked when the public was going to get answers to the important questions that had been raised. Mr. Wyman replied: "I believe with all my ability to believe in having a substantial amount of time evaluating these specific subjects under discussion, that the commitment to objectivity and truth and integrity is exactly as described. We report a very large volume of news and we do not pretend that we are perfect in a business which inevitably involves some judgmental calls. We have debated these particular issues at considerable length with Accuracy in Media, which certainly has, I believe as many of you know, no shortage of the ability and the energy to express their concerns. We have reviewed those concerns and have responded to them to

the limit of what we feel is constructive and productive interchange, and we have reached that limit today."

Irvine rejoined: "I would like someone to tell me how it comports with the highest standards of journalistic accuracy that you cite to interview a former special assistant to the President of the United States, Walt W. Rostow, for three hours, to tape his interview, which did not conform to the line that was being laid down in the Westmoreland program, and therefore to discard that tape, show not one second of it on the air, to mention nothing to the viewers about what he had said.... How does that comport with the high standards of journalistic accuracy, integrity and fairness that you say in your proxy statement you adhere to?"

Wyman replied: "The question you raise on the detail of individual broadcasts—To enter the debate—Because the putting together of that kind of programming involves a very important, very sensitive, very difficult decision-making process. To take this meeting through that process in this atmosphere is not the way we're going to spend time at this meeting. We are more than prepared to do that with any of you and all of you outside the business of this meeting. It's a level of detail to which we are not going to descend."

Irvine: "Tell me when and where, and I will be there."

Wyman: "We will invite you to our offices in New York."

Irvine: "We will be there."

Wyman: "I will be there."

We nailed down agreement that the meeting would be on the record, and we are now negotiating agreement on the date. We are hoping that this will be more productive than the Boston meeting proved to be.

A Little Libel

In the question period, we asked how many libel suits CBS had outstanding against them. Mr. Parker replied: "There are quite a few outstanding. It doesn't cost us a lot, but I don't know the answer to either question. We are insured with deductibles in the—fully insured above \$100,000. I don't know the annual cost of that."

Prodded, Mr. Parker acknowledged suits were pending by Col. Anthony Herbert, Mayor Green of Philadelphia, Dr. Robert Sharon, a Massachusetts psychologist, a young couple in North Carolina wrongly accused of being members of a motorcycle gang, and a college in California wrongly accused of being a diploma mill. All these cases involve "60 Minutes".

After we went down this list, Mr. Parker said: "We have quite a few cases that are so insubstantial that we don't really worry too much about them." These cases may not seem very important to the officers of CBS, but they are very important to the plaintiffs, who feel that their reputations have been severely and unjustly damaged.

Salaries

We also pointed out that the media were paying a great deal of attention to the elegant lifestyle of the Reagans. We noted that Dan Rather is said to be earning \$1 million a year, five times the salary of the President of the U.S. The five officers and directors whose compensation was shown in the proxy statement were receiving payments ranging from \$505,000 a year to \$855,000, over double to quadruple what Reagan is paid. We asked how many CBS officers and employees are paid over \$200,000 a year. Mr. Wyman said there were many. He did not have the number. Mr. Wyman also acknowledged that more than one CBS employee is paid \$1 million a year or more. Dan Rather is one. Another is believed to be Bill Moyers, who narrated the highly inaccurate program, "People Like Us," that was supposed to have shown how Reagan's safety net for the truly poor is not actually working. Mr. Moyers is obviously a long way off from those needy types that he pretends to identify with.

We pointed out that the radical magazine, *Mother Jones*, had praised Moyers for having "ripped to shreds the logic of the military arms buildup." It had also commended him for suggesting on the air a connection between Martin Luther King, Jr.'s murder and King's opposition to the Vietnam war. *Mother Jones* particularly liked this statement attributed to Moyers: "In a society dependent upon a servant class it is dangerous to demand not only respect for equality, but actions to achieve it." Mr. Wyman did not agree that these sentiments would make good material for Radio Moscow.

What You Can Do

There is evidence that CBS may be no more forthcoming in this private meeting than it has been in public. Mr. Wyman has written one of our supporters to say that it would serve no purpose to debate the Westmoreland program with Mr. Irvine. We suggest that you write to Mr. Wyman, urging that the CBS executives not enter this meeting with closed minds, determined to reject all criticism. Write to Thomas H. Wyman, President, CBS, Inc., 51 West 52nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019

BARBS FOR NBC; KUDOS FOR ABC

The RCA annual meeting in New York City on May 4 was attended by Reed Irvine, who moved a resolution proposing an ombudsman be hired for NBC News. One of the cases we discussed was the use of Jon Alpert's material on El Salvador on the Today Show. We pointed out that Alpert was guilty of mistranslating in English what the persons he was talking to were telling him in Spanish.

Alpert's material was offered to the Christian Broadcasting Network, and Scott Hessek of CBN has written a column explaining why they rejected it. He describes Alpert's documentary as "an anti-American advocacy program." He says, "The supposed 'running translation' of the commentator from the Spanish of the refugees to the English of the American viewers left

very much to be desired in the way of accuracy. The 'translator' was putting words into their mouths, and leading these desperate people along in his 'Spanglish' like a hostile prosecuting attorney leads a defendant....Tens of thousands of Americans who have seen scraps of the footage on varying shows have been told by the running commentator that a Salvadoran soldier is definitely saying Americans pilot their helicopters when his actual comment in Spanish is far less definitive. A refugee woman saying she doesn't know where her family is is translated to say they are 'lost and presumed dead.' The entire program goes on that way, piling innuendo on top of supposition.... The danger in his particular type of TV 'news' is that it is being used successfully by Latin American leftists to brainwash the American public through our own broadcast media."

Kudos for ABC

The ABC annual meeting on May 18, was attended by Murray Baron, President of AIM. He was given a cordial welcome by the ABC management, as has been their custom since we first began to attend their meetings. We had no resolution before the ABC shareholders, but Mr.

Baron was given ample time to comment on the performance of ABC News. He criticized David Hartman, the host of "Good Morning, America," for having asked the former president of Iran, Bani Sadr, if it was true that there were several hundred covert American agents operating in Iran. He was also critical of a 20/20 segment by Carl Bernstein exposing the efforts of the United States, Egypt and Pakistan to supply the freedom fighters in Afghanistan with a trickle of badly needed arms to resist the Soviet invaders. In both cases, Mr. Baron suggested that this was irresponsible journalism which served no useful purpose and which might endanger lives and the success of important operations.

On the other hand, Mr. Baron praised ABC for the excellent documentary it aired on "yellow rain," the chemical and biological weapons being supplied by the Soviets to their satellites in Indochina and Afghanistan. He also commended ABC News for its "Viewpoint" programs, which provide members of the public with an opportunity to question and challenge ABC News correspondents and executives. Mr. Baron also commended Ted Koppel for the generally excellent conduct of his "Nightline" program.

THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

Why don't the media pay more attention to scientists like John McKetta, professor of chemical engineering at the University of Texas, instead of to non-scientific experts such as Ralph Nader? Dr. McKetta is trying to get the public to understand that most of the pollutants in the atmosphere are put there by nature, making the efforts of the environmental extremists to get pure air an exercise in futility.

McKetta, in a recent talk in Dallas, pointed out that nature accounts for 55 percent of the particulates in the air, 65 percent of the sulphur dioxide, and 70 percent of the hydrocarbons. He said that the grass and trees in his yard put more hydrocarbons into the air than does his automobile, adding: "We are spending \$31 billion for catalytic mufflers for all our cars because Los Angeles has a smog problem. He says he promised EPA never to take his car to Los Angeles if he could be excused from having a catalytic converter, but EPA wouldn't buy that.

But John McKetta wonders if it makes any scientific or economic sense to require folks in Boise or Austin or thousands of other communities around the country to pay the high cost of catalytic mufflers when 95 percent of the oxides of nitrogen in their air is God-given. He notes that lightning fixes hundreds of thousands of tons of oxides of nitrogen in the atmosphere every minute. And it is a good thing, he says. It fertilizes the plant life when the rain falls. Millions of Americans are paying not only for those expensive catalytic converters, but they are also paying a premium for the unleaded gasoline that cars that have them must use. McKetta

says it is nonsensical, but John McKetta has a much harder time getting the attention of the media than does that famous non-scientist, Ralph Nader.

McKetta says that the EPA has done some good things. For example, the U.S. Steel Co. mill down in Birmingham, Alabama was spewing a lot of pollution into the atmosphere. They spent \$20 million to clean it up, and they began removing 20,000 lbs. of pollutants from the smokestacks every hour. The capacity to remove one pound per hour required an investment of \$1,000.

But that didn't satisfy EPA. So U.S. Steel invested another \$7 million dollars in capacity to remove pollutants. But the additional equipment removed only 16 lbs. of pollutants per hour. That meant the capital cost per lb. per hour had soared to \$437,000. EPA still wasn't satisfied. They wanted the company to take out another 10 lbs. per hour. U.S. Steel said enough is enough and took the case to court, where they were told that EPA was enforcing the law and they had to obey.

U.S. Steel is closing its Birmingham plant. Foreign competition is blamed. But such legislated stupidity has done much to erode our ability to compete.

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S CUFF

By Reed Irvine

AIM Report

June-I 1982

THE CBS NEWS HATCHET JOB WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO DESTROY GEN. WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND'S reputation last January was the most frequently mentioned topic at the CBS annual shareholders meeting which is discussed in this issue of the AIM Report. As we point out, CBS refused to even try to answer the serious criticisms that we and others made of this program. They ducked the debate, but we did get them to agree to a private meeting to discuss this and other complaints that we have about the performance of CBS News. The date is still to be set.

TV GUIDE MAGAZINE HAS COME OUT WITH A DEVASTATING CRITIQUE OF THE CBS NEWS ATTACK on Gen. Westmoreland since this issue was set in type. It is called "Anatomy of a Smear," and it is the cover story on the TV Guide issue that covers programs from May 22 to 29. The authors, Don Kowet and Sally Bedell, had access to the complete transcripts of several of the interviews that CBS did for this documentary. That enabled them to compare what the persons interviewed actually told Mike Wallace and George Crile with what Crile and Wallace chose to put on the air. The results are absolutely devastating, so much so that CBS has had to change its tune. In an April 28 letter to Col. Robert C. Brown, CBS President Thomas H. Wyman said that he found it quite possible to agree that Gen. Westmoreland was a "fine officer who served our country many years with distinction" and at the same time believe that "Mike Wallace's documentary on aspects of the situation in Vietnam was important and carefully done." Mr. Wyman concluded: "It is clear to me that debate with Mr. Irvine on this subject serves no purpose."

IN RESPONSE TO THE TV GUIDE BLOCKBUSTER, WHICH APPEARED ON THE NEWSSTANDS ON MAY 24, CBS issued this statement: "The TV Guide article raises serious questions that are being reviewed by CBS. Because of the length of the article and the complexity of the subject matter, it would be inappropriate to respond at this time." This ignores the fact that the article has been under serious attack since it was aired last January. It is not as though CBS discovered for the first time on May 24 that the program was badly flawed. However, it is a little harder to brush off TV guide with its millions of readers than it is AIM's 70,000. TV Guide concluded that its analysis of the Westmoreland program suggests that the "safeguards" for fairness and accuracy in television news need tightening, if not wholesale revision. Certainly, this program and the way CBS brushed off the criticism of it from the very beginning shows that CBS News badly needs an ombudsman. It also shows that we were right in asking that Mike Wallace be fired. If CBS does not take action against those who were responsible for the dishonest deceptions that have now been documented by TV Guide, it will lose all credibility. This is their Watergate.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS TV GUIDE DISCOVERED THAT WE DID NOT KNOW. (1) SAM Adams, the former CIA analyst who was responsible for the charge that there had been a conspiracy to under-report the enemy strength in Vietnam in 1967, received a \$25,000 consulting fee from CBS News. He was also interviewed for the program, but prior to the interview George Crile, the producer, and Alex Alben, his researcher, rehearsed Adams, giving him a "dry-run" interview, using essentially the same questions Mike Wallace would ask him on camera. CBS News production standards prohibit the use of interviews that are "not spontaneous and unrehearsed" unless they are specifically approved by the president of CBS News. Such permission is rarely given, and when it is, "the extent to which an interview is not spontaneous and unrehearsed must be adequately disclosed in the broadcast." There was no such disclosure in the case of the Sam Adams interview. No questions were put to Adams that might have caused him any embarrassment by challenging the accuracy of his charges or theories.

Mike Wallace, famous for his probing interviews, said that it never occurred to him to ask Adams any tough questions. That was reserved for the targets of Adams' charges.

(2) Mike Wallace presented the theory that Adams had developed that the 1968 Tet Offensive was a disaster because Westmoreland had deliberately underestimated the strength of the enemy, but he never mentioned Westmoreland's rebuttal that Tet had demonstrated that our intelligence had overestimated Vietcong strength, not underestimated it. The transcript of the Westmoreland interview shows that on at least ten occasions Gen. Westmoreland pointed out that the relatively small number of men the enemy threw into the Tet offensive showed that the estimate of their strength of around 300,000 men was too high. Sam Adams had argued that the 300,000 figure was much too low.

(3) One of the seemingly most damaging statements made by Westmoreland in the interview as aired was his assertion that the infiltration rate for reinforcements from North Vietnam was running at 20,000 a month in the autumn of 1967. Wallace showed that Westmoreland had said on Meet the Press in November 1967 that the rate was only 5,500 to 6,000 a month. He showed Westmoreland saying that he must have been mistaken in making that statement on Meet the Press, and Wallace used this to prove that the general had deliberately understated enemy strength in 1967. The full transcript shows that Gen. Westmoreland expressed doubts when Wallace asked him about the discrepancy. He said the lower figure was the rate during the summer, but he recalled that it increased. He said he would have to look at the reports before he could answer the question. He did check the reports, and he sent the figures to Wallace. They showed that the infiltration rate did not reach 20,000 until January 1968. CBS had that information seven months before the documentary aired, but they ignored it, and put on the air Westmoreland's initial inaccurate answer. The transcript also shows that the general told Wallace: "I can't remember figures like that. You have done some research. I haven't done any research. I'm just reflecting on my memory." That, of course, was not aired.

(4) George Allen, a retired CIA official who appeared on the show to be a strong witness against Westmoreland, told TV Guide that he had tried to dissuade CBS from doing the show "because I thought they were making a mountain out of a molehill." Producer Crile was dissatisfied with Allen's interview, and so he persuaded him to do it over again, but first he showed him portions of interviews with other witnesses CBS was going to use against Westmoreland. Allen says he thinks this was done to "refresh" his memory. Allen told TV Guide that he was on the periphery of the argument about enemy strength in 1967-68. His boss, Dr. George Carver, was in the middle of it. Carver also told CBS they were making a mountain out of a molehill. He was not even interviewed on camera.

(5) Another very important witness that CBS failed to interview was Westmoreland's top intelligence officer during the period in question, Gen. Phillip Davidson, Jr. Gen. Davidson told TV Guide that if there was any manipulation of the intelligence figures, he had to do it. All Westmoreland's intelligence orders went through him, and he strongly denies that there was any manipulation of the kind alleged by CBS. During his questioning by Mike Wallace, at one point Gen. Westmoreland asked why Wallace didn't talk to Davidson, who could better respond to some of his detailed questions. "Gen. Davidson is a very, very sick man," Wallace replied. "We want very much to talk to..." Davidson told TV Guide that CBS had made no effort to contact him either by phone or letter. He said he has been very healthy for the last eight years, a statement TV Guide verified by talking to his doctor.

(6) Wallace said on the program that Westmoreland had instructed the head of the MACV delegation to a meeting with CIA over intelligence estimates not to permit the estimate of total enemy strength to go above 300,000. The man they showed on the air who seemed to buttress that charge was Col. George Hamscher, who was not the head of the MACV delegation. The head, Gen. George Godding, had given no such figure to CBS and had denied there was any conspiracy. Col. Gains Hawkins, one of the negotiators, had told Crile four times that he had not been given any numerical ceiling. Hawkins was aired, but not those statements.

17 JUN 1982

Robert V. Henning

7 CARTERET PLACE • GARDEN CITY, N. Y. 11530

June 15, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Cribb;

I am writing to urge your continued interest in and emphasis on the enforcement and preservation of the Fairness Doctrine.

I particularly refer to the recent program, "People Like Us", which throughly misrepresented the facts that exist in the safety net problems.

It is important that all facets of the media industry be held accountable for their presentation of programs and articles such as this misrepresentation of the facts only causes confusion and does harm to the entire economic structure of the country. As we know the poverty programs have been terribly expensive and much of the money in the programs have not gone to the poor but to the poverty industry; the well paid civil servants; consultants; and others who administer and exploit the loosely audited poverty programs. Continued emphasis in this area is important.

Yours very truly,

BELMONT METALS, INC.


Robert V. Henning

RVH/md



21 JUN 1982

CITIZENSHIP RESEARCH PROJECT

(INITIATED 1933)

43 EAST 60th STREET, NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

TEMPLETON 8-5677

Aiken Road
Greenwich, Ct.
06830

June 16, 1982

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

Dear Sir:

This is a communication urging you to initiate such action as will cause Mark Fowler, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and his fellow Commissioners to start vigorously enforcing the Fairness Doctrine, instead of trying to abolish it.

Their point of view is obviously contrary to the American principal of fair play.

They do not belong in such important positions.

Sincerely,


William J. Walsh

WJW:ce
cc: Accuracy in Media

24 JUN 1982

209 Prinz Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78213
June 21, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Cribb:

Republicans in this community cannot understand why the President approves of FCC Chairman Mark Fowler's request to Congress for repeal of The Fairness Doctrine which provides for equal time for both parties involved in a controversial issue. Frequent anti-Reagan news broadcasts by the National TV Networks, which are unfounded, establishes an anti-Reagan Syndrome, particularly within the CBS TV News department. The sleazy broadcast titled "People Like Us" by Moyers supports this contention. CBS's refusal for rebuttal time should be carried into the courts in order to establish once and for all time that the National TV Networks cannot operate outside the laws of these United States with impunity. Your personal comments will be appreciated.

Respectfully,


George B. Peplow

25 JUN 1982

1103 S. Fowler, R. 3
Cole Camp, Mo. 65325
June 22, 1982

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

Dear Sir:

We can see that the Media allows only liberals to give their views on T.V. This causes many uninformed people to think the wrong way, therefore help promote wrong ideas - the ideas that are bad for our free nation.

We, both strongly feel that the enforcement and preservation of the F airness Doctrine must be enforced at all costs!!

We, both talk against the so called "peace" demonstrations everywhere we go, since we know that they are communist backed.

We pray daily for President Reagan and all the people in the present administration - that they have the wisdom to turn this country around and get it going in the right direction. May God guide them in everything that they do.

Sincerely,

John S. A. Hansen

John S. A. Hansen

Beatreas Hansen

Beatreas Hansen