

William J. Dodwell

November 9, 1992

Mr. Rush Limbaugh  
WABC Radio  
1 Penn Plaza  
West 34th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Rush:

As a rabid conservative, I found your book, "The Way Things Ought To Be" truly exhilarating. It is a great survey course in the issues of the day delivered with lucidity, unabashed honesty, and compelling force. It is the definitive normative view wholly de-politicized. Your iconoclasm in extolling political incorrectness is refreshing. This work has the makings of a classic a la Adam Smith's "The Wealth Of Nations" and William F. Buckley's "God, Man and Yale". It should be required reading in the schools. (That'll be the day!)

In addition to the "mega-dittos" delineated above, I'd like to express some of my thoughts about your book and radio and television programs to augment your pronouncements and even criticize them where I think you're too soft or amiss. I proffer these comments in the interest of raw, unadulterated truth as I see things, stripped of politicism; straight, no chaser. Consider it my effort to posit the philosophical over the political.

#### The Liberal Problem

At the risk of stating the obvious, I target the following institutions for tracking the liberal juggernaut:.

- Congressional Democrats
- The plaintiff bar
- Mass media
- The university
- The teachers' and public employees unions

From this nexus flows the malaise. In the midst of myriad issues and details, it is important to stay focused on the seminal sources of the problem. I think this perspective helps chrystalize the debate.

The name of the game today is to maximize aggrieved special interests and pander to them, not on their merits, but for the sheer sake of liberalism. The broader the overall liberal constituency the greater the potential support for any particular liberal issue as they all rest on a common denominator: more government, less individual freedom and differentiation, and greater equality of result, not opportunity. This

paternalistic egalitarian formula empowers its purveyors by enriching them economically or by expanding their influence while fostering the dependence of many of their subjects. The institutions above are the principal vehicles through which this poison is administered.

Traditional liberalism is economic and social involving the haves, the have nots and those that control the process of equalizing them. But today there are other issues, such as environmentalism and animal rights, dedicated to advancing the same liberal agenda, that is, more government and less individual freedom to the benefit of those running the process. With this in mind, advocates do not necessarily care about the issues themselves but rather the size and number of constituencies they attract. One liberal issue serves another out of common cause. This principle explains the proliferation of new liberal niches such as the homeless problem, sexual harassment, and even child abuse and missing children.

## AIDS

You are too soft on the AIDS issue. Although you allude to the real problem in two sentences at the end of the book (p. 271), your emphasis in Chapter 12 is misplaced. In it you stress abstinence because of the behavioral nature of the problem and dismiss the promotion of condoms on account of the behavior it encourages. You also say they are unreliable.

My point is that the general population is not at risk to AIDS. We have known from the beginning that almost all victims fall into two risk groups: male homosexuals/bisexuals and intravenous drug users. But AIDS activists and their liberal sympathizers, who are legion, would have us believe it's everyone's problem. This is to maximize interest (read funding) and to defuse a backlash against gays. The ubiquitous condom and the emphasis on safe sex are the principal means by which that propaganda is imbued in the general public consciousness. The effort to bring this campaign into the schools is the ultimate attempt to foster the false notion that no one is safe. This so-called education has nothing to do with combating an actual threat. It is a tactic to universalize what is actually a fairly specific problem.

The media have abetted this fraud all along. As if on cue, newspapers, magazines, talk shows and news programs orchestrate a spate of coverage, always suggesting the disease is indiscriminate. The dissenting view is totally suppressed in the mainstream media.

A few years ago a book entitled "The Myth Of Heterosexual AIDS" by Michael Fumento appeared. It explains in detail how the issue is exaggerated. By my observation, the only publications that chronicled this work were Commentary (November '87) and National Review (February 5, 1990), both conservative, and to my amazement, the homeless publication, Street News (June '91). With all the hysteria about AIDS, this one highly documented source of relief for most people was totally ignored by the mass media. This is similar to your experience with the pediatric AIDS people with regard to the politicization of the issue.

It seemed that the AIDS propaganda was finally abating when the Magic Johnson announcement came along last year. A supposedly straight national hero contracted the HIV virus. Just what the activists needed to revive the crusade and bring it to new heights. However, a recent news item citing rumors about Johnson's homosexual activity seriously challenges his appeal as spokesman. I do not say one should readily believe mere rumors, and perhaps this one is unfounded, but in the context of his role as AIDS advocate, they are noteworthy. Not for nothing, but I expressed skepticism shortly after hearing the news last year. I was suspicious of the initial equivocation of his doctor and of Johnson's belated statement as to how he got the disease.

Isn't it interesting that with all the talk about safe sex in the general population, AIDS activists did not express any concern about Magic Johnson resuming play. He poses a greater risk (however small) on the basketball court given the possibilities involving open wounds than heterosexual activity does in the bedroom. In reaction to what he and the activists term the ignorant and fearful concerns of other players he decided to retire. Ironically, they speak of infinitesimal risk in this case but trumpet the grave risk of heterosexual sex despite long-standing statistics to the contrary.

Your call for behavioral change and abstinence is appropriate, but only as it relates to the two risk groups. As for the rest of the population, your recommendation is mostly irrelevant and only strengthens the propagandists' hand.

## The Media

Conservatives have long bemoaned liberal bias in the media. But my lament goes further in that I think coverage is sometimes downright dishonest. Bias is evident in the peremptory minimization of conservatism in the mass media. Indeed, given the force of political correctness today, I'm surprised your book was allowed to emerge. It is also apparent in the blatant and subtle promotion of liberal values and opinion in movies, sitcoms and news programs.

But dishonesty is deliberate disregard for the truth through the exclusion or distortion of an opposing view. The suppression of the previously mentioned Michael Fumento book about AIDS is an example. Other examples are evidenced by the media's distortion of statistical facts. You mentioned the absurdity of Mitch Green's estimated 3 million homeless and a reported 24% of the world's land mass occupied by cattle, both readily accepted by the media. But also consider statistics that have always shown over 90% of AIDS victims are of two small minorities, vis a vis headlines that say nobody's safe. This is lying.

The oft-mentioned 20,000 lifetime sex partners of Wilt Chamberlain is a prominent example of journalistic innumeracy. Has anyone analyzed this figure? Chamberlain is about 55 years old. If we assume he's been sexually active since the age of 15, his conquests average more than one different woman every day for 40 years. I daresay no man in the history of

the world could honestly make such a claim, yet it is unchallenged by the media, even you, Rush! There may not be a political agenda in this item, but it shows how inaccurate the media can be reporting in numerical terms.

Media people say they don't have the power to sway opinion. This is nonsense. How many times have you heard people swear by Ted Kopple or "60 Minutes", or have observed how they revere the anchors on the evening news? They can mold desired public opinion by the way they present news just as the Congress can create desired law by the way it controls debate and packages legislation.

I found Dan Quayle's comeuppance in the vice presidential debate most gratifying. After a four year drubbing in the media because of his conservatism, he triumphed in exposing the Clinton agenda for the false elixir it's claimed to be. He wiped the floor with Al Gore pressing all the right buttons:

- Character and trust and the inconsistency of Clinton's statements
- The myth of the ability to fund \$150 billion of new spending by raising taxes only on incomes over \$200,000 a year.
- The lunacy of paying (a major share of) \$100 billion to foreign countries for environmental projects, especially in view of the budget deficit.
- The unemployment created by overzealous CAFE standards and the concern for the welfare of the spotted owl.
- Family values and the 60% of inner city births out of wedlock
- Educational choice and the right of middle class parents to send their children to private school too
- Legal reform and Clinton's sweetheart deal with the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association

By the way, do you see any parallel between Admiral Stockdale's lamentable debate performance and Quayle's problems in 1988? Both men having outstanding backgrounds suffered lapses that belied their achievements and competence. The media appropriately coddled Stockdale but ridiculed Quayle relentlessly. Then again, he's a certified conservative. I realize Stockdale was a darkhorse and a figure of compassion, but the comparison is worth noting.

#### Anita Hill

I watched the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings on C-Span for some fourteen hours. It was a long holiday weekend (Columbus Day) during which some ailment kept me homebound. Thus, I think I have a good basis for evaluating the Anita Hill affair.

I believed Anita Hill. It's not that I saw evidence of Thomas lying as much as I was impressed by Hill's apparent sincerity. She seemed too relaxed and unrehearsed to be making up her allegations. In the absence of any obvious misrepresentation on either side, my intuitive reaction was that she told the truth. If I'm wrong, she's a superb actress.

Senator Arlen Specter behaved like the prosecutor he once was. I thought Hill displayed understandable frustration at having words put in her mouth. His attempt to expose her for supposedly changing her initial story related to the FBI did not uncover any glaring inconsistency. To me, her restated testimony seemed to qualify a previous casual explanation in response to more intense questioning. Specter tried to demonstrate a change in nuance as a lie. It didn't wash in my mind.

This is not to say I side with the liberals on this issue. My point is that I don't care if Clarence Thomas did the things Anita Hill claimed. I consider sexual harassment a non-problem created as yet another liberal issue. It's a pretext to further evoke the specter of discrimination and oppression out of an ever growing egalitarian zeal. The acts Hill cited do not bear upon Thomas's capacity as Supreme Court justice, not even with regard to issues concerning women. Is there a character issue here? I think not. How's that for an untenable political position? However, if Hill told the truth, the matter of Thomas's perjury is certainly problematic.

As for Anita Hill's supposed mistreatment by the all male Senate Judiciary Committee, only the feminists believe it. Actually, the members were quite civil with her, even Senator Specter. It's ironic that these extremists who seem to call for absolute equality for women in everyday life are offended because Anita Hill wasn't coddled. In fact, she practically was.

#### The Women's Movement

I've witnessed first hand the influx of women into the work force in the last twenty years. To be sure, many are very talented and perform well in business at many levels. The distaff had been a woefully underutilized resource.

But that said, we must not deny fundamental differences between the genders. Apropos of your comment about women's nature on pgs. 194-195, consider the following personal anecdote.

While enjoying a little libation after work one Friday evening about a year ago, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation of a couple sitting next to me at the bar. I don't think the two were that well acquainted, so there was an air of incipient courtship about them.

After listening to the woman boast about her executive business responsibilities for about an hour, the man suggested a choice of three locations for dinner. She responded indignantly, "I have to make that decision? I make decisions from 9 to 5, I'm not going to make this one!!!" A classic. I'll never forget it.

## Miscellany

Herewith a laundry list of items that I think bear mentioning.

The TV show is much too short. Sometimes it's abruptly truncated for lack of time. For example, your gorilla story was cut off in mid-sentence. Since this happened just as you uttered "animal rights wackos" I suspected censorship.

I know you believe humor is the distinguishing characteristic of your presentation. But I suspect that your audience, like me, is more interested in your ideology than in being entertained. I vote for less comedy and more pontification.

Why the feigned affection for Roger Ailes dog? Surely, it wasn't to appease the animal rights crowd was it? Or was it to show that conservatives have feelings too? Remember, your greatest asset is sincerity and dedication to truth. Don't start politicking.

Ditch the NRA commercial. It evokes the image of the stereotypical '50's conservative as redneck, bigot and ignoramus.

I denounce your dramatized capitulation on the radio before the election in which you pretended to switch allegiance to Clinton. Your initial hesitance because of "the power of the microphone" was well placed. There are no doubt thousands who tuned in and out without knowing you were kidding. This is dangerous. I too tuned in and out that day before an explanation but knew better. Having read your book, I recognized immediately you were trying to demonstrate the absurd with the absurd. But I suggest your analogy is flawed. For Clinton to repeatedly contradict himself in dozens of locations throughout the country over several months is certainly reprehensible. But it's not the same as you contradicting yourself to callers in one spot inside of a matter of minutes. You made the pathetic seem tame by demonstrating the absurd. The example you cite in your book about the subliminal satanic message on the phonograph record is much more symmetrical.

Sure Gorbachev is a communist. And certainly credit Reagan for holding Gorby's hand to the fire by insisting on a strong defense. But no other Soviet leader ever came close to his rethinking that was indispensable to the eventual dismantling of the communist bloc, notwithstanding the economic motivation that applied to his recent predecessors as well.

I wish you would scrap the rock music on your shows. To me it's antithetical to conservatism. I suppose aesthetics and ideology are independent, but why does Bill Buckley play chamber music on his show? On the other hand, I heard a conversation with William Bennett in which you referred to a contest between you concerning the number of '60's rock and roll songs you could name. I gasped. I would have thought that Bill Bennett (a good conservative) was a la Tony Bennett musically. I guess it all depends on personal exposure and experience. (I'm around your age by

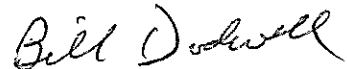
the way.) I would much rather hear Whoopi Goldberg's soothing unfettered music track on your show. But what do I have in common with her?

You subreference too much. Frequent digressions have aborted many an interesting thought for failure to return to them.

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I hope my views help you improve on your 98% correctness rate (or whatever it is this week). I know your book and programs have influenced mine. May you get the exposure you deserve - 90 minutes of prime time T.V.

Sincerely yours,



Bill Dodwell