

Editorial

Good Night America

Numbers of our readers no doubt joined us in anticipating the airing of an interview with Lyndon LaRouche by Good Morning America journalist Bill Ritter. It would be good to see LaRouche again, if only on the TV screen, and perhaps we would hear something about his views on the current chaotic scene in Washington.

We should have known better. Not for nothing is it called the boob tube. The worst part of the interview was the triviality, the utterly banal level of the attack on LaRouche. One could have anticipated that ABC News was not going to agree with millions of Americans that LaRouche is his nation's greatest living statesman. But to have to listen to slanders intermixed with questions was an outrage.

"Mr. LaRouche, how did it feel to do the laundry?" was one of the questions. LaRouche was quick to point out that he found nothing humiliating in doing physical labor, but the viewer was led to wonder at a government which would impose strenuous physical labor on anyone over 65 years of age. Such a policy should have evoked outrage from even such a cynical listener as Ritter, but instead the attempt was to ridicule LaRouche's campaign for the presidency. That such drivel could be tolerated on what claims to be one of America's premier news analysis shows is sadly indicative of the depths to which the culture has sunk.

Fortunately, despite it all, LaRouche shone through. "Prison has not mellowed Lyndon LaRouche," remarked the ABC commentator at the close of the show, and many of those watching must have felt great relief to recognize the truth of that remark. "Good for LaRouche," was the reaction of many viewers.

LaRouche made the following comment on Jan. 23: "It is my impression, after seeing this morning's broadcast of material taken from an interview done with me, here at the prison this past Wednesday, that someone back in the ABC shop had decided that the original version of the interview made me a little bit too credible. Therefore, they had tried to correct that by pasting in certain questions that were actually asked by the interviewer, but selecting an answer which I gave to a different question, in order to try to make me seem

evasive, or something."

It is interesting to note the topic of the two "news" items which preceded the LaRouche interview on the show: soap opera and soft pornography.

The first item was a discussion of how the jurors reenacted the scene in which Lorena Bobbitt emasculated her husband, in order to come to the decision that she acted in a moment of insanity. This ludicrous story has dominated the airwaves for months, during the trial of her husband and then herself.

The second segment showed how teachers, psychologists, and social workers were trying to deal with the trauma inflicted on children by the Los Angeles earthquake. "How did you feel, dear?" was the question asked over and over. One might wonder if it would not have been more to the point to engage the children in planning for how their schools, homes, and neighborhoods will be rebuilt following the earthquake, but such questions are not considered relevant to the mental health of America's children.

Why, one might ask, did Ritter not ask LaRouche what he thought of the Clinton administration's handling of domestic and foreign policy? Surely this was a relevant topic, and would have allowed Ritter ample room for his own snide commentary. This show was not an exposé of LaRouche, but of the absolutely abysmal incompetence of American journalism today, be it the print or electronic media.

Fortunately the media will not have the last say. This sorry performance only underscores how welcome Mr. LaRouche's return from the limiting conditions of prison life, is. It is about time that farces such as this interview are relegated to the dustbin by the full exoneration of Mr. LaRouche and his co-defendants, and his associates still languishing in the prisons of the Commonwealth of Virginia. A world in which Mrs. Bobbitt is made a media heroine and Michael Billington is serving a 77-year jail sentence, is sadly askew.

If something is not done soon to reverse this situation, and all that it implies, then indeed it will be Good Night America, and with America every other nation on this unhappy planet.