



Published by ACCURACY IN MEDIA, INC.

4455 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 330
Washington, DC 20008 Tel: (202) 364-4401
Fax: (202) 364-4098

E-mail: ar@aim.org
Home Page: <http://www.aim.org>

\$1.50

April-B 1998

XXVII-8

HANOI JANE RETURNS: FROM COMMUNISM TO FEMINISM

By Cliff Kincaid

When CNN founder Ted Turner married left-wing political activist and actress Jane Fonda, observers wondered how long it would take for the former cheerleader for the North Vietnamese Communists to influence CNN's programming. They can quit wondering. In March, Jane Fonda debuted on CNN as the off-screen narrator of a series of four programs titled, "A Century of Women." These programs aired to celebrate women's history month. They promoted the feminist idea that women should find fulfillment in life by emulating someone like Hillary Clinton. On the other hand, conservative activist Phyllis Schlafly was depicted as one who was holding women back from fulfilling their true potential.

We viewed the program that aired on March 29 and analyzed the transcripts of all four. We agree with conservative columnist Cal Thomas. He said they were "perhaps the most one-sided, biased and distorted view of women ever seen on television." Commenting on Fonda's role, he referred to the documentary film footage and photographs of her sitting in a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft gun during the Vietnam War, noting, "Her platform has merely shifted from a seat on an anti-aircraft gun in Hanoi to a perch at the top of an American television network."

Hillary The Host

CNN did not show the famous Fonda face. Perhaps they feared that would turn off those who still remember her as "Hanoi Jane" for her support for the Communist enemy during the Vietnam War. Rick Kaplan, the new president of CNN, was able to secure the services of an even more famous face, that of First Lady Hillary Clinton to host the series. Kaplan, while working for ABC News, provided invaluable assistance to the Clinton campaign in 1992.

Mrs. Clinton introduced each program and was featured in the final show as a role model for American women. Viewers were not reminded that she had offended millions of mothers and homemakers with her negative comments about "baking cookies" and working inside the home.

Instead, Mrs. Clinton was depicted by CNN as the epitome of the modern American woman, balancing the needs and demands of family, home and career. She was the good mother and the faithful spouse. The last segment in the final show portrayed the Clintons themselves as a warm and loving family, with photographs of them and daughter Chelsea laughing and hugging. There was no hint that the sex scandals swirling around Bill Clinton might have clouded this pretty picture.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt was not similarly spared. The first program in the series, entitled, "Justice for All," mentioned charges that he had an extramarital affair, but CNN saw that as helpful to his wife. Historian Blanche Wiesen Cook informed viewers that Eleanor Roosevelt's knowledge of the affair "frees her to pursue her own life" and that she did so, establishing her own reputation as a liberal activist.

CNN missed the opportunity to point out a possible analogy between Hillary Clinton and Eleanor Roosevelt, who is so much a role model for Hillary that she sometimes has imaginary conversations with Eleanor. Mrs. Roosevelt was spared the pain of having her man's extramarital dalliance exposed during his lifetime. Mrs. Clinton has not been so fortunate. She once said that she was not like the long-suffering woman in the Tammy Wynette hit song who "stands by her man" no matter what, but in the present situation she is clearly not demanding that her man do the right thing.

Portraying the Clintons' marriage as a happy one is a fraud perpetrated by the CNN series. Aired at the height of the Jones/Lewinsky scandals, this must have been apparent to the most fervent feminist viewers as they watched Hillary host this series on women's rights.

Another Cover-Up

CNN also applied this same fraudulent treatment to President John F. Kennedy, a notorious womanizer who had prostitutes brought into the White House itself for his own sexual pleasure. Ignoring this aspect of Kennedy's life, which has been

documented in Seymour Hersh's new book, *The Dark Side of Camelot*, CNN portrayed him as a friend of women's rights because he had appointed a Commission on the Status of Women. "It was the first time in American history that the role women should play became part of our national agenda," Fonda said.

If the radical feminists really believe that a Democratic politician's womanizing is irrelevant or that it frees his spouse to be herself, they did not say so explicitly on the CNN programs. However, this strange interpretation of "women's rights" is consistent with the feminist double-standard that has recently drawn comment even from liberal reporters. The contrast between the feminist demands for rigorous scrutiny of sex charges against former Republican Senator Bob Packwood and their lack of interest in Paula Jones's complaint against Bill Clinton is glaring. Only when Kathleen Willey went public with her story of being fondled by the President did the organized feminist lobby finally display a touch of outrage.

Feminist leader Gloria Steinem and Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer were featured in one of the CNN programs discussing Anita Hill's attempt to derail Clarence Thomas's nomination to the Supreme Court by charging that he had made off-color remarks in her presence. The matter was presented as one of historical significance, with Sen. Boxer complaining that the Senate had treated Hill badly and that the "emotions" of this controversy had "changed" women forever.

That change has not caused Sen. Boxer to take up the cudgels for Paula Jones or to condemn the President for engaging in sex with a young White House intern in the Oval Office. The CNN series itself totally ignored the Clinton sex scandals, which make Anita Hill's charges appear pale by comparison.

CNN implied that President Clinton is a friend of women's rights because of his appointments of women to important posts. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was cited as being the first woman appointed to that position. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, a former ACLU lawyer and Clinton appointee, was interviewed at length and shown with the President.

The Other Side

The notion that most women do not care about spousal infidelity or even view it as "liberating," was challenged dramatically on March 5, just three days before the first CNN program aired. Hundreds of women marched in Washington, D.C. in a "Character Does Count" rally. "We are here to challenge the news that America doesn't care about morality in leadership," said Bonnie Perry, the grandmother who organized the event.

The appeal of radio talk show host Laura Schlesinger, who had promoted this rally on her program, shows that old-fashioned morality has strong popular appeal. Schlesinger's syndicated program is reported to be the most popular talk show on the air today. It is said to reach more than 20 million people a week,

edging out Rush Limbaugh. Schlesinger, who gives advice to callers, stresses old-fashioned morality and traditional family values. She condemns extramarital sex and glorifies motherhood. She encourages her callers to say, "I am my kid's Mom," when they phone in to her program. For Schlesinger, good mothers and fathers are critical to the rearing of good children and maintaining a healthy society.

The tragic schoolyard murders in Jonesboro, Arkansas were quickly used as arguments for greater gun control even though the weapons used were not the types targeted by gun-control advocates and were stolen by the boys who committed the crime. It was also argued that violence portrayed on TV and in the movies might explain the violent behavior of the two boys. The media paid far less attention to the troubled background of Mitchell Johnson, the 13-year old boy who was apparently the prime instigator. Mitchell Johnson came from a broken home. His mother had been married three times, and, as a working mother, the time she could spend with him was limited. Recently, Mitchell had reportedly gotten into drugs, including marijuana. The lack of a stable family relationship and the absence of a mother in his home no doubt contributed in some degree to making Mitchell Johnson into an anti-social misfit and criminal.

Smearing Moms

In the CNN programs mothers were portrayed as know-nothing air heads, motherhood was viewed as not intellectually challenging, and discussing the lives of children and how to take care of them was a waste of a woman's time. Being a wife and mother and raising good children was depicted as a situation that could actually drive some women mad. "The reality of being left alone all day with small children could mean both isolation and frustration," Fonda declared.

An unidentified female was shown saying that staying home with her daughter was "a tremendous threat to me" because it made her "as insular as those mothers" who had sometimes gotten together to discuss mundane things like laundry detergents. "I heard a 15-minute dialogue [on] detergents, which absolutely astounded me one day," she said. "I mean, it sounded like something out of a TV commercial. I couldn't believe people actually talked that way. And it's either that or they talk about their children."

In the second program, "The Pursuit of Happiness," Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, was portrayed as a fighter for women's rights, despite the acknowledgment that she had abandoned her family while her marriage was collapsing in order to push the greater cause of birth control in Europe. However, by showing some 1957 film footage from "The Mike Wallace Interviews," CNN at least hinted at Sanger's controversial anti-Christian views. She was shown saying that Catholic Priests were "celibates" who "don't know love" and yet "speak to people as if they were God." CNN decided to leave out some of Sanger's other controversial statements, such as her blatantly racist pronouncements in favor of population control programs targeting blacks and other minorities as "human weeds."

Revising History

With the exception of Phyllis Schlafly, all of the women on the CNN programs were from the liberal-left side of the political spectrum. Reflecting the Clintons' ties to Hollywood, many were actresses. Even Roseanne Barr was included in the line-up.

Phyllis Schlafly was singled out as someone who, in derailing the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), had stood in the way of women fulfilling their human potential. Schlafly, identified on-screen as only an “anti-ERA activist” and not as a wife, mother, and successful woman in her own right, was shown declaring that ERA was seen as a threat to the traditional American family. But former Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder was given the last word, saying that “the Phyllis Schlaflys who think that everybody’s being taken care of” were wrong about that, and that the reason ERA failed was because the feminists were not able to get the message out that the ERA “really helped all women.”

“The ERA was defeated three states short of ratification,” narrator Fonda declared, briefly ending this review of a critical moment in the history of the “women’s movement” and quickly dismissing the literally millions of women who understood that ERA really did not “help all women.” Fonda made no mention of the conservative women’s movement which sprung from the battle over ERA, encompassing not only Phyllis Schlafly’s Eagle Forum but Beverly LaHaye’s Concerned Women for America. Many of those at the “Character Does Count” rally were from both of these groups.

Fonda tacitly acknowledged that the ERA wasn’t needed, saying “Today the fight over the ERA may seem almost irrelevant, as women are working in record numbers and in nearly every kind of job. By the year 2000, 80 percent of American women will be working full or part-time. The question now isn’t who will work, but who will do the dishes and change the diapers?”

Women, with men, are trying to find the right balance between work and family.”

But the “solution” cannot be, as Fonda seemed to imply, the discovery of some new mutually-beneficial working arrangement between men and women. After all, many of those men, the husbands, are themselves working outside the home, and many of these women, like Mitchell Johnson’s mother, do not necessarily want to work outside the home but are forced to do so because of circumstances. There is no way that such an arrangement can guarantee parental influence and control over the raising of children.

The obvious “solution,” from the viewpoint of Hillary Clinton, Jane Fonda and the feminists, is a national network of federally-subsidized day care centers for children, where professional bureaucrats and educators take control of the lives of the young. Such a plan was unveiled by Hillary’s husband in his State of the Union address in January. But, as noted by Robert Rector and Patrick Fagen of the Heritage Foundation, it penalizes those parents who make a great financial sacrifice so that one parent can remain at home to care for their children. These parents will not receive any federal support under such a plan.

Federal day care was not formally promoted in the CNN series, perhaps because it would have been too blatantly political, but the implication was that such a plan is absolutely necessary so that women can continue working outside the home.

Some conservatives in Congress are fighting the proposal by insisting that any child-care legislation should also include support for women who work inside the home as mothers and homemakers. These are “women of the century” as well, and if we had more of them, perhaps we would have fewer Mitchell Johnsons and a healthier society.

FINANCING COMMUNISM IN AFRICA

President Clinton’s trip to Africa was a masterstroke of public relations—a diversion within a diversion. Clearly, he wanted to distract our attention from his sex scandals at home. But he did not want the press, Congress and the public to see how badly U.S. hopes for Africa have been disappointed, and why our efforts to improve the African economies, promote democracy and improve the lives of the people have failed.

The President must also have hoped that the reporters, seeing the failures elsewhere in Africa, would not try to determine if our policies toward South Africa were doomed to fail as well. Had they probed enough, they might have found that the outlook is not as rosy as the government pretends.

Media coverage of Clinton’s visit to South Africa created the impression that this was one country at least that was on the road to prosperity and democracy. On one level, the trip was a tremendous photo opportunity for Clinton. By walking arm-in-arm with South African President Nelson Mandela, regarded by

many as a man of immense moral stature because of his stand against apartheid, Clinton wanted Americans to believe that the U.S. is now on the right side of history, marching toward a future in which human rights and economic growth that will lift the standard of living are guaranteed in South Africa and much of the rest of the continent as well.

The truth is very different. With the end of the Cold War and the demise of Soviet-style communism, it may not be fashionable to put it this way, but the reality is that the Communists are poised to take control of South Africa. This so-called “multiracial democracy” could become a Marxist dictatorship in a matter of only a few years. Mandela himself attacked white opposition parties and the media last December, in a display of what one reporter called “Marxist revolutionary rhetoric.” But the worst is yet to come under Mandela’s heir, deputy president Thabo Mbeki.

Dr. William Lloyd Stearman, who served on the National

Security Council staff in the Nixon, Reagan and Bush administrations, is warning that communism may be in South Africa's future, and he is not alone. Before we go overboard in guaranteeing private American investments in South Africa, Congress should hear from Dr. Stearman and others who understand the historical relationship between Mandela's Africa National Congress (ANC) and the powerful South African Communist Party. The ANC has long been a Communist front. Dr. Stearman says Mbeki and other Communists have taken control of key government ministries, including the military and the police.

Clinton's posturing and photo opportunities in South Africa diverted the attention of the public and the media away from the administration's policy of working behind-the-scenes with Mbeki, who actually runs the country because of Mandela's advancing age and frail condition.

Mbeki was out-of-sight and out-of-mind for most of Clinton's visit, as far as media coverage was concerned. Our survey of evening news coverage found absolutely no mention of him. Stearman says this was deliberate on his part. "Mbeki realized that it was Mandela's show," Stearman told us, "and he knows that Mandela is idolized in this country." In other words, Mandela is the perfect front man for Mbeki. Of course, even if Mbeki had made himself available for questions, it's doubtful whether any American reporters would have had the integrity to have asked him about his military training in the former Soviet Union. Such questions would probably have been considered inappropriate and irrelevant. Today, Mbeki poses as a diplomat and travels internationally, appearing at forums hosted by Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet President who himself waffles on the question of whether he has personally abandoned communism.

With Mbeki in the shadows, the evening news coverage on ABC, CBS and NBC focused on Clinton's relationship with Nelson Mandela. They showed Clinton and Mandela visiting the prison from which Mandela was released on Feb. 11, 1990. Both TV and print reporters glossed over the fact that Mandela had been convicted of treason in 1963 after he and nine others were arrested on charges of plotting a massive terrorist campaign. Documents, many of them in Mandela's handwriting, revealed plans for attacks on 106 targets and led to the discovery of 50 tons of explosives. Mandela is now said to have been a "political prisoner," but Amnesty International denied him that designation because he had pleaded guilty to terrorist crimes.

After terrorists become presidents or prime ministers, their violent pasts usually go unmentioned by the media, especially if, like Mandela, they were far-leftists. You may have noticed that President Clinton did not seek a photo-op with Gen. Pinochet during his recent visit to Chile. Pinochet is on the liberal blacklist because he overthrew a Communist government at the cost of several thousand leftist lives. Many journalists are unaware of Mandela's terrorist background. When Bill Nichols of USA Today referred to him as a political prisoner on C-SPAN, a caller pointed out that he had been jailed for terrorist activity. Nichols commented, "That is a novel interpretation."

Stearman points out that Mandela could have been freed from

prison years earlier if he had renounced violence, but he adamantly refused to do so. When he was eventually released, he and Joe Slovo, long-time leader of the South African Communist Party, met with then-South African President F.W. DeKlerk. Mandela and Slovo later appeared at a Communist rally together. Stearman says there is no evidence that Mandela was himself ever a member of the Communist party, but that he is and was a Marxist who has been surrounded and influenced, if not controlled by, Communists. Thabo Mbeki was personally handpicked for his post by Mandela.

A Washington Post story about Clinton's trip revealed that Mbeki had met with Clinton to appeal for "generous financial help from the United States." Clinton said he agreed, the Post reported, but he complained that the Republican-controlled Congress was refusing to cough up the money. However, Clinton promised to provide \$700 million in government guarantees for American private investment in South Africa. This means taxpayers will be stuck with the bill if companies lose their money there.

Mbeki is a hard-core Marxist revolutionary trained in Moscow. The administration apparently thinks he can be trusted to protect American investments in the country in the long run. But the folly of trusting Marxists to do what is sensible is apparent in Zimbabwe, where Marxist Robert Mugabe is driving out the whites as the economy slides downhill. In reporting on the "new" South Africa, some journalists have noted that crime is soaring out of control. But the crime is also of the organized variety, and the *Mail & Guardian* reported last year that a government unit under Mbeki's control had stalled an investigation into alleged Mafia activity in South Africa.

Communism and organized crime are a deadly combination. But Mbeki's background alone is reason enough to start the warning lights flashing. Stearman says businessmen should invest only if they can get their money out of the country in a few years. He believes that South Africa is firmly on the road to becoming a full-fledged "socialist" state with all major industries nationalized. He says the process could take as long as ten years, but he warns, "The Communists are moving systematically and slowly to take control of the country."

What You Can Do

Send the enclosed cards or your own cards or letters to Secretary of Defense William Cohen, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Strom Thurmond, and Elaine Donnelly, president of the Center for Military Readiness. See the Notes for the explanation of why these cards are needed to help Lt. Jerry Burns, the whistleblower who is being punished by the Navy.

AIM REPORT is published twice monthly by Accuracy In Media, 4455 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington DC 20008, and is free to AIM members. Membership dues are \$35 a year. Dues and contributions to AIM are tax deductible. Corporate membership is \$100.
