

CHEVY CHASE

June 17, 1991

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Dear President and Mrs. Bush:

What an honor it was for me to meet you both at the Weintraubs and, most particularly, for me to sit at the First Lady's table. You know, it is truly amazing how overwhelmed big deals like myself become when in the company of the President and his wife. Despite all of the stardom surrounding celebrities, and despite our perceived political differences of opinion, we are all like kids in a candy store at a function such as last Saturday. And, believe me, I know all of 'em, from the Warrens and the Arnolds, to the Goldies and Gellys.

I must say, it took some order of courage to allow yourselves to be seated with so many "liberals".

As I sat across from Mrs. Bush, I saw a beautiful lady with warmth and humor in her eyes, and impressive sense of self; great poise mixed with some small amount of mischief. And as I watched you, Mr. President, I couldn't help thinking of my own Dad and Mom. Even though I grew up in an atmosphere of liberalism and "Democrat"-to-the-end, I perceived not so many differences in bearing and general perspective when sharing that evening with both of you. I know we hardly spoke to one another, but I left that occasion with warm feelings & good will. And I questioned why, year after year when it is time to "speak out" for one position or candidate after another, we tend to see so little of the "person" behind the office, and fall automatically into our inherited "niches" politically.

There are two overriding things I learned

from Saturday evening. One has to do with
our political differences: I realized we all
find abortion "distasteful" and horrifyingly
on the rise, yet we all want to help the
poor and disadvantaged Americans to have the help
they need from those who have more. We all be-
lieve in the right to privacy and a woman's right
to autonomy concerning certain issues in her life.

You are "perceived" as Pro-life, I am "perceived"
as Pro-choice. Yet the line is very thin when
deciding how to handle such an emotional issue.

As it is with so many issues, which I won't
get into. Suffice it to say that one of those
things you have taught me is that no matter
how tough the choice or how deep the issue, one
has to make a stand honestly, according to one's
conscience, and not bow to the whim of the time.

You also taught me, though in my heart I
suppose I've always known it, that people are people
no matter what their "standing" in life, and

that, when all is said and done, and when I can no longer sell a movie ticket for 5¢, or when the year 2010 comes along and Mr. and Mrs. Bush are watching some ~~known~~ new "kid" President on T.V. named "Smith" or "Diaz", it is that lasting friendship and closeness that we have with our children and grand-children or our Weintraubs, that will stand the test of time.

These are simple values, but they are values, and I felt I should drop you a line to let you know how comfortable I feel with two such nice and well-meaning people in the White House, even if I do get out for the "Dems" in '92. It wouldn't hurt me a bit to know you were still there.

Thanks again for the honor, and God bless —

Best wishes

Chfl