

MARCH 12, 1982

A Van-Pan to a Great Guy

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. IT IS MOST

APPROPRIATE TO INCLUDE ME IN THIS IMPRESSIVE  
TRIBUTE TO SENILITY. I WANTED TO BE HERE FOR  
THE VAN-PAN.

MORE IMPORTANT, JUST IMAGINE THE RARE  
AND GRATIFYING OPPORTUNITY THIS PRESENTS FOR A  
COMMISSIONER TO JOIN IN THE ASSAULT AGAINST THE  
FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE  
THAT EXERCISED OVERSIGHT OVER THE FCC. YEP,  
VAN CRITIQUED OUR DISMAL PERFORMANCE, PUNCTURED  
OUR VANITY AND MADE <sup>sure</sup> CERTAIN COMMISSIONERS MAIN-  
TAINED A BECOMING HUMILITY.

HE CONSTANTLY REMINDED US WE WERE ARMS  
OF CONGRESS----HE SOMETIMES EVEN IMPLIED THAT WE  
REMINDED HIM MORE OF A LOWER, MORE CENTRALLY  
LOCATED APPENDAGE OF THE ANATOMY. FOR EXAMPLE,

271

HE WOULD ASK SUCH INQUISITIONAL QUESTIONS AS  
"IS THERE ANYTHING KNOWN TO YOU AND NOT TO THIS  
COMMITTEE THAT COULD POSSIBLY BE USED TO DIS-  
CREDIT, DISGRACE OR IMPEACH YOU? ---REMEMBER  
YOU ARE UNDER OATH!"

HOWEVER, GOOD OL' VAN GOT HIS! HE GOT  
CAUGHT TWO YEARS AGO IN A BIG SAN DIEGO CAM-  
PAIGN TO "STAMP OUT VD"-- THE RESULT WAS THAT  
THE VENEREAL RATE IN SAN DIEGO WAS REDUCED  
23% AND VAN DEERLIN WAS SWEEPED OUT OF OFFICE --  
THE TWO WEREN'T RELATED, BUT AS USUAL, THE  
VOTERS DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES.

VAN WAS UNDERSTANDABLY UPSET -- HE MADE  
LOUD PROCLAMATIONS THAT HE HAD NEVER FLUNKED  
A WASSERMAN OR LOST AN ELECTION. HIS POLITICAL  
FRIENDS WERE CONFUSED AND RUSHED TO HIS AID  
GENERALIZING: "WHATEVER IT IS, YOU KNOW IT'S A

LIE. ANYWAY, WITH THE INVOLUNTARY CELIBACY OF HIS GOLDEN YEARS, VD IS IMPOSSIBLE".

IN MANY WAYS, IT'S TOO BAD HE IS NO LONGER IN OFFICE. VAN DID MAKE SOME NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS DURING HIS 20 YEARS IN CONGRESS ---WELL, LET'S SEE ---SUGGESTIONS ANYONE? WELL, HE CONTRIBUTED TO THE UNITED WAY; HE ALWAYS CONTRIBUTED TO THE OFFICE SUPERBOWL AND WORLD SERIES POOLS AND HE GAVE HIS VERY ULTIMATE TO THE JIMMY CARTER FOR PRESIDENT CAMPAIGN!

HE ALSO HAD SOME GOOD GOVERNMENT IDEAS-- AS CONGRESSIONAL GUARDIAN OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN TV, HE WANTED TO GET SEX OUT OF TV AND BACK IN CONGRESS WHERE IT BELONGED. HE ALSO HAD A DRASTIC, BUT MOST EFFECTIVE SUGGESTION FOR CUTTING DOWN THE SIZE OF GOVERNMENT --SIMPLY MAKE ADULTERY A CAPITAL PUNISHMENT OFFENSE.

HOWEVER, HE SEEMED TO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH SOME OF THE MORE SUBTLE, NEW ISSUES --FOR EXAMPLE, HE JUST COULDN'T GET IT THROUGH HIS HEAD THAT THE WAY TO COOL TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS BY ARMING ALL PARTIES TO THE TEETH! HE DID BELIEVE, AS A FREE-SPENDING LIBERAL, THAT THE WAY TO FINANCIAL SALVATION WAS THROUGH FISCAL SIN. I THINK HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THE BUDGET LOOKED LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF "STAR WARS" LEADING TO "STRANGE ENCOUNTERS OF A PARTISAN KIND".

VAN WAS SOCIALLY AVANT GARDE --HE WAS ONE OF THE EARLY ADVOCATES OF A WOMAN FOR PRESIDENT. HE SAID IT WOULD MAKE FISCAL SENSE. SHE WOULD WORK TWICE AS HARD AS A MALE AND ONLY REQUIRE HALF THE PAY. VAN SUPPORTED ERA, TOO,

EVEN IN HIS RELIGION -- HE SAID "REMEMBER GOD MADE MAN, SHE DID IT AS A JOKE".

AND NOW FOR THE MOST INTERESTING AND MEANINGFUL PART OF ALL THIS --SERIOUSLY, I AM PROUD TO HAVE VAN AS A GOOD FRIEND FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS (AND THUS ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH ALL I CONCOCTED TONIGHT).

VAN WAS BLESSED WITH A WARM SENSE OF HUMOR AND AN ENORMOUS INTELLECT. HIS OVERSIGHT HEARINGS WERE AN EFFECTIVE MIX OF CAUSTIC GOOD HUMOR AND TACT. HE WAS A FAIR-MINDED, EFFECTIVE CONGRESSIONAL CHAIRMAN.

IT IS COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT THIS HIGHLY-RESPECTED COMMUNICATIONS LEADER IS NOW IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM AND WARM GOOD HUMOR TO STUDENTS AT SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY. THEY ARE

LUCKY TO HAVE HIM AND, SINCE WE DON'T HAVE HIM  
IN WASHINGTON, WE ARE LUCKY HE IS THERE, TOO.

SO, VAN, YOU HAVE OUR LOVE AND OUR VERY  
BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED ACHIEVEMENT IN THAT  
GREATEST OF PUBLIC SERVICES --TEACHING THE TRUE  
VALUES TO THE YOUTH OF TODAY SO THEY CAN BE-  
COME THE RESPONSIBLE COMMUNICATIONS LEADERS OF  
TOMORROW.