

RCB ROME

RDCK

July 20, 1993

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

I have read your very rude letter regarding my series of floor statements on the history of Rome. Obviously, you have missed the point of my project.

I am making the statements to demonstrate to other Senators and to the public watching that we tamper with our carefully crafted system of checks and balances at our peril.

Rome fell when its Senate became weak and ceded its power to a dictator. Those who advocate unwise reforms like the line-item veto or enhanced rescission authority are really advocating a weakening of the legislative branch, a step that, historically, has had disastrous consequences.

Your statements about my work for West Virginia are ridiculous. Do you not read the daily newspaper or is that also a waste of time in your view? If you did bother to read the paper, you would be aware that I work constantly for West Virginia, and have been directly responsible for billions of dollars in federal funds pouring into West Virginia to construct roads, build bridges, improve health, create jobs and improve education. If the unwise reforms I am crusading against are ever enacted, my ability to continue to help West Virginia as I have could be curtailed.

For your information, C-Span has noted my project and is compiling, on one tape, all of my speeches for distribution to schools. Apparently everyone watching does not agree with your sour assessment.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Byrd

RCB:bb