

Rumor Unfounded!

by M.N.R.

A friend of mine recently heard, as solemn fact from a self-proclaimed reliable source, that I had become a convert to Catholicism. Amusingly enough, this is probably the longest-lived rumor in the history of the modern libertarian movement. As long as four decades ago, a friend waggishly warned me that I "was setting out on the road to Rome." The rumor is, as usual, not true, as in the case of most movement rumors that have not been sifted and

published by Sarah Barton.

There is, through all the revelry, a serious point about the persistence of this rumor. For it reflects the inability of most libertarians, who are not only ignorant of but implacably hostile to religion in general and Christianity in particular, to conceive how anyone could possibly be an admirer of Christianity or the Catholic Church without being an actual convert. From a generation and a movement that knows little more about history or theology than The Inquisition or the complete works of Ayn Rand this comes of course as no surprise. ■

solemn pundits, such as David Broder and E.J. Dionne Jr., are lamenting "cynicism" these days. But with people like the Clintons in power, cynicism is not a luxury, it's a necessity. And the same pundits who bemoan our cynicism are treating the bagging of that old rascal Daniel Rostenkowski as Sophoclean tragedy—the noble hero undone by a single character flaw: stamp-collecting. That's because Rostenkowski is their old buddy.

Clinton whined that Limbaugh gets to talk for three hours a day, and he, the poor little commander-in-chief of the mightiest forces in history, doesn't get to answer. It just isn't fair! But George Stephanopoulos hinted afterward that the Fairness Doctrine could just be revived, if things don't get fairer around here on their own.

Now: did this outburst, and this thinly-veiled threat, have the same result as Spiro Agnew's complaints about press bias back in 1969? Did the major media howl about the "chilling effect" on free speech, the First Amendment, and our endangered liberties? Not at all. On the contrary, the major media don't like Limbaugh and the religious right either. Some liberal pundits even joined Clinton and Stephanopoulos in denouncing them.

The establishment media and the political establishment, in other words, are closing ranks against the populist uprising and the

An American Spy in Washington

A Midsummer Nut's Dream

by Joseph Sobran

It's summer in Washington, and you provincials out there may be interested to learn that here in our nation's capital we of the power and opinion elites are preoccupied with just one thing: the O.J. Simpson case. My reaction to the amazing Friday-night slo-mo chase scene was that it had to be a Gergen operation. For three weeks, the Simpsons completely eclipsed the Clintons as the No. 1 talk-radio topic.

But things are getting back to normal, and our young president has given an interview on talk radio to complain of his treatment by talk radio, particularly Rush Limbaugh, and by the Christian right, particularly Jerry Falwell. In doing so Clinton reached new plateaus of self-pity and self-importance. He carped about "a constant unremitting drumbeat of negativism" and observed that the men who fought at Omaha Beach "did not die so that Americans could indulge in the luxury of cynicism."

Coming from a former military-loather who took pains to save his own skin, this was a pretty breath-taking charge—the suggestion that to criticize Bill Clinton is to profane the dead of Normandy. And Clinton isn't the only guy in town talking this way. You may have noticed that a lot of Washington's more