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## Main content

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The date was March 18, 1987, and Sen. Alan K. Simpson of Wyoming was leaving the White House after a meeting with President Reagan. The Iran-contra episode was much in the news at the time, and Simpson found himself arguing with a reporter about the press corps' earlier questioning of Reagan on the subject. The reporter said something about the public's "right to know."

"That's a bunch of crap," Simpson shot back. "What kills me is that you go in there and have your good old fling, and that's great. But you know very well that you're not asking him things so you can get answers. You're asking him things because you know he's off balance and you'd like to stick it in his gazoo."

Gazoo?

Simpson, a Republican known for his blunt (and sometimes ribald) language, served 18 years in the Senate before retiring last year. By the late 1980s, he says, he was plumb fed up with the media" and what he sees as their manipulation of the American public. Since the reporters "like to stick it to us," he reasoned, somebody should stick it to them. Over the next few years, as a result of several well-publicized tussles with reporters, he developed a reputation as perhaps the media's most vocal critic on Capitol Hill.

Simpson seems to be under the impression that he's come up with a new version of that familiar tale, "The Emperor's New Clothes." He writes as if he's revealing a naked truth that nobody else has been willing...

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information or the backlink directed to the origin URL to the end of the content in WordPress auto post plugin mode for example. You can publish a portion of the content by shortening it with Find & Replace feature instead of publishing the entire content. You can extract content in "Draft" status and publish it after making changes. Does it support all themes and plugins? Simpson, author of *Right in the Old Gazoo: A Lifetime of Scrapping with the Press*, indicated he had no quarrel with the concept of the public's right to know -- if two words are added: the truth. "It is not the public's right to know crap, innuendo, gossip and rumor," he contended, charging that much journalism involves "conflict, confusion and controversy, but not clarity." In a speech laced with rough-hewn humor, Simpson suggested that violin music should accompany an editor's defense that the paper is sticking by a challenged story. Simpson, currently a visiting lecturer at Harvard's Shorenstein Center, also complained about how the press blames bad reporting on competitive fervor. "You can't sell your soul based on the issue of competition," he asserted. But Simpson can't leave without a few parting jabs at the press, and his book *Right in the Old Gazoo* is both a reflection upon the role the press has played in Simpson's political life and a thoughtful outline of how the media could better serve the democratic process. In the beginning of his Senate career, Simpson curried favor with the press corps, chumming up with the media at swank soirees and earning favorable coverage for his down-to-earth character. Senator Simpson turns the tables on the press with his critical appraisal of journalists and the contemporary media establishment. Eighteen years in the United States Senate have given this outspoken politician plenty of opportunity for clashes with the press, which he now recounts in *Right in the Old Gazoo*. With his distinctive, pull-no-punches style, Simpson points out where the media have erred (all over the place!) and offers a wealth of vividly told anecdotes that show how an irresponsible press threatens the freedoms that Americans hold dear. And here for the first time he gives his side of dustups with journalists, such as veteran reporter Peter Arnett and National Public Radio's Nina Totenberg. It's an *i Life Is Worth Losing* HBO special by American comedian George Carlin. Recorded on November 5, 2005, Beacon Theater, New York City, New York. That's fucking creative. Imagine being inside a burlap sack under water, in the dark, sitting next to a drowning monkey. Think he'd be moving around a little bit? The dog would be going ape shit.