

That's the line you are supposed to have a short line in. And it was ridiculous; it wrapped around you know like a snake.

So I walked over to the head TSA guy and go: "Sir, why is there only one line here for pre-check?"

9:00 He goes, "Dennis Prager!" [Audience laughs] And I just remembered, I didn't curse. I wanted to make sure that while I was annoyed I didn't do anything that might ruin my image in this man's mind. It is a problem when you are ... you have to be very careful. You can't give dirty looks to drivers. No, no, there's a real different world.

Anyway, so the autobiographical statement is about ... this is proof about how much I admire ISI and National Review. It is exceedingly rare that I speak on a Friday night, because I am an observant Jew and Friday night and Saturday are sacred to me—otherwise, by the way, I would be in an insane asylum. If people ask me, "How do you stay happy and sane given all the terrible news you report every day?" And I answer, "The Sabbath." That is my answer. I don't listen to radio; I don't watch television; I don't even read the newspaper. I leave the world for 24 hours. And it is my sanity.

10:00 But on rare occasions I think something is so morally significant that I sort of break my sabbath, and I did in this case. So you know, that's the proof of how much I admire you and what you're doing. So I just wanted you to know that. [Applause from the audience]

So when they offered me earlier crab with BLT, I explained ... ah, it's not ... check Leviticus [laughter] 'cause we all know it's everybody's regular airplane reading, Leviticus. [Chuckle]

Anyway, you got to meet Allen Estrin today who represented Prager University. People came over and told me how good he was; I know how good he is, believe me. I thank God sent him and my wife to me and I call them my two spouses. Allen has a spouse of the opposite sex as well, but ... that is how close we are, and he's a gift beyond description. So you had a chance to meet him and see what we are doing.

11:00 Now I was asked to speak ... I love these large topics. I was not asked to speak on the myth of Andalusian Islamic tolerance. I was asked to speak on the future of the Western world [laughter]. You know, and then they said, "Could you do that in about eight minutes?" [More laughter] No, not an issue; I'm used to speaking between commercial breaks. But they didn't say about the eight minutes, but that's fine with me. It's a very important topic. So let me answer you. I've thought about this my whole life, and let me give you some of my answers. There are two sections here.

12:00 First, is to understand, which is not taught today at all that our universities have deteriorated terribly, it's part of the reason of the pessimism over the west. Incidentally, I have a theory that there were two major sea-changes in American life that produced a sort of moral and intellectual deterioration or an enfeeblement of the American mind. And they both took place after World War II. One is television, which did profoundly enfeeble American culture; if there were no television we would be much better off.

People say, "Isn't there anything good on TV?" It's like when people will call my show and say, "You really attack the left a lot. Doesn't the left do anything

significant: Prager is taking the subject *very* seriously, indicating not only that the subject is important to those attending but that he has spent considerable time and effort understanding what has been going on; *morally* significant

sanity/refreshed/restored: first, his work during the week means facing a number of moral issues that could easily leave him in despair; second, being restored to sanity means leaving this practical morally-challenged world for 24 hours to live in the transcendent realm of a Jewish Sabbath; third, this is a shift from practical affairs concerning the good of order to the reflective level of the human good concerned with terminal value, specifically ethical monotheism

lightens the mood while at the same time pointing out that *few people read the bible*

gratitude: not a deist; God is active in human affairs

the myth of Andalusian Islamic tolerance is connected in his mind with the future of the Western world; large topics?

the state of Western civilization is a moral issue for Prager

two sections: the enfeeblement of the American mind, and everything good comes from Western society (19m30s, p. 5)

Prager is in the educational business, stressing character development, goodness, and wisdom above mere brilliance compared with *universities that are rewarding secular brilliance over goodness* with terrible results **enfeeblement:** moronic, clueless, incapable of thinking, incompetent, childish, immature, incoherent, dominated by feelings, lacking depth, superficial, etc.

gut reaction of a morally alert person to what passes for entertainment and education on TV (see *enfeeblement*)