In the Nation of Islam newspaper, The Final Call, Farrakhan explained for his readers the origin of President Clinton's political problems.

"Looking at the President Clinton's desire to put pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to give up more land or the West Bank to the Palestinians," said Farrakhan, "the Zionists, in my judgment, used what they know of the weakness of President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky was introduced."

When asked about the statement on October 18, 1998, by Meet the Press moderator Tim Russert, Farrakhan explained that Ms. Lewinsky was only one of several Zionists conspirators.

"I look at Lucianna Goldberg, Linda Tripp, Monica Lewinsky, and I ask myself 'Why was this introduced at a time when Netanyahu was being pressured by the President to give up more land on the West Bank?'"

Doesn't that take your breath away?

It does mine.

But even so, we must pay attention.

At the American Jewish Congress, we have no illusions about Louis Farrakhan. We know him to be a racist, vicious bigot and an implacable enemy of the Jewish people.

We also understand that we live in a free country. In America, Minister Farrakhan and his followers have a right to their beliefs, no matter how offensive to others those beliefs may be.

With passion, we support that right. We are proud at the AJCongress to be known as one of this country's premier defenders of civil rights and civil liberties.

But we are also in a nation bound by laws. And when we learned not long ago that security businesses run by the Nation of Islam had received federally-funded contracts, we began to ask questions.

It is the law of this land, we pointed out to federal officials, that no federal contractor may discriminate in hiring on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

So, we asked, is the Nation of Islam an equal opportunity employer?

Is there any reason, we inquired, to think that Minister Farrakhan's followers might be inclined to discriminate against certain people?