

C-SPAN. While the cameras rolled, Americans United exposed the Coalition's plan for what it really is: a self-serving scam to use government funds -- our tax dollars! -- to subsidize its extremist agenda.

Pat Robertson didn't like *that* one bit.

One of our staff members even wrote a whole book about Robertson. The title is *The Most Dangerous Man in America? Pat Robertson and the Rise of the Christian Coalition*, and it's chock full of the extreme, bizarre things Robertson has said over the years.

Pat Robertson didn't like *that* one bit.

Last year, Americans United obtained a tape of a 40-minute speech in which Robertson privately told 100 top activists of the Christian Coalition exactly how he plans to elect the next president of the United States.

We delivered copies of the tape to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Federal Election Commission (FEC), and released a transcript of the speech to the press. Within just hours, Robertson's "secret plan" was in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and virtually every other major newspaper across America!

Pat Robertson didn't like *that* one bit.

During the 1996 elections, Americans United sounded the alarm to churches all over the country, warning them that distributing the Christian Coalition's biased and partisan "voter's guides" could result in a loss of tax-exempt status. We put it on our website, e-mailed it, faxed it and blitzed churches with it through the U.S. mail.

You should have seen the uproar! Robertson's front man Ralph Reed insisted that his "voter's guides" were fair and whined about "intimidation." Meanwhile, we have it on good authority that in many churches, those guides quietly ended up in trash cans. In fact, the plan worked so well, we're taking the same action right now for the '98 elections.

Rest assured, Pat Robertson doesn't like *that* one bit.

As you can see, at Americans United, we don't believe in mincing words or handling the Religious Right with kid gloves. And we hope you agree that pulling out all the stops and turning on the harsh light of scrutiny is the best way to counter groups like the Christian Coalition.

That means we're aggressive. It means standing up boldly for the principles we believe in. It means not backing down when self-righteous zealots like Robertson accuse us of being "anti-Christian" when we blow the whistle on them. It means forcing them to come out from behind their smug smiles and misleading rhetoric so the American people can see what it is they really want -- a nation reconstructed according to their narrow views.

I guess Robertson was used to opponents who left the field before the battle even began. That's not what Americans United does -- and I suppose that's why Robertson keeps calling me names.

As you may have guessed, I don't mind Robertson's name-calling. In fact, I wear his attacks like what they are -- victory medals. If Americans United weren't having an effect . . . if we weren't making life unpleasant for Pat Robertson and his Coalition, then he wouldn't bother to attack us.