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by Jim Rutenberg and Peter Bogdanovich

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Jeffrey Tuchman co-wrote and directed *The Man From Hope*, the 14-minute 1992 campaign propaganda film that showed Bill Clinton's humble beginnings—"I was born a poor white child ..."—in his hometown of Hope, Ark. It was produced by Linda Bloodworth-Thomason (*Designing Women*), and so it got the yet-to-be First Couple into a little bit of political trouble for having glitzy Hollywood friends.

Jump-cut to present. Thursday, July 8, found Mr. Tuchman in his office at Broadcast News Networks—the New York-based, television production house—reviewing footage of a helicopter rescue for a show about the Las Vegas search and rescue squad that will eventually air on A&E's *Investigative Reports*.

Mr. Tuchman took a cigarette break on his office patio to talk with NYTV about his own proposed rescue mission.

He is starting to put feelers out to people close to Mrs. Clinton (including his old colleague, Mandy Grunwald, Hillary's media adviser) to see if he can make a documentary of the First Lady's likely Senate run. Otherwise, he said, the historic moment will be doomed to the 24-hour-a-day, television-news meat grinder.

"I think that the media's perspective on the political process has become more jaundiced and cynical and dark, and I think their ability to see moments of real possibility has really diminished," said Mr. Tuchman, taking a deep drag from his cigarette. "If we don't get the opportunity to follow her, the media coverage of the campaign, along with the commentary of the pundits, will ultimately stand as the record of her candidacy."

Alas, things have changed since Mr. Tuchman directed *The Man From Hope*.

That film short showed Mr. Clinton as a committed family man who rose up from humble beginnings to devote himself to a life of public service.

"I think everything about Bill Clinton that *The Man From Hope* promised has borne itself out. It was absolutely a film about who he is, and his personality has been utterly consistent with the man in the film." Despite the scandals, Mr. Tuchman? "Absolutely," he said.

Tonight on *Investigative Reports*: "Cop World, Part 2." [A&E, 16, 9 P.M.]

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