


Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

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October 13, 1990

Mr. Brian Lamb
President, C-SPAN
400 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to "Friends of C-SPAN" because I am hopeful of a response. I further hope that someone at C-SPAN will see it and realize that there are many viewers who cannot afford long distance phone calls no matter how much they may wish to comment on or question one of your guests.

I believe that C-SPAN is suffering from the Beltway Syndrome. You should go out to the hinterlands and see what is happening for the other 220 million Americans.

C-SPAN may also be succumbing to the Disease of Monopolies which manifests itself in ever-increasing self-preening and leads to arrogance.

Apart from the broadcasts of Congress and committee hearings, C-SPAN is looking more and more like the network news divisions. And, in many cases, CNN has surpassed you.

I enclosed a self-stamped, addressed envelope to demonstrate that my belief in cost-free avenues of response is not limited to a C-SPAN 800 number.

Sincerely,



NOV 23 ANS'D

[REDACTED]
Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

October 13, 1990

Friends Of C-SPAN
c/o Bud Harris
312 Cherry Hill Boulevard
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002

Dear Mr. Harris:

I have written without acknowledgement to Brian Lamb about how the absence of an 800 number for Viewer Call-In programs effectively cuts out lower income people from the dialogue.

From one who is unemployed and in debt, I can assure you that I am a registered voter who watches C-SPAN with interest on a 16 year old television. Cable is a gift from a friend who likes to discuss what's going on in the House.

Why can C-SPAN, which is so self-congratulatory about its impartiality, continue to screen out people who are poor? In this respect they behave like my Congressman and Senators.

I would not believe that C-SPAN cannot get the funding for an 800 number. I have worked for companies with annual gross revenues in the low six figures which bore the expense gladly.

More and more I am being convinced that Bell Atlantic and the rest should be allowed to use the growing fiber optic technology to offer news, bank transactions, direct purchases from stores and traditional cable programming in addition to voice communications. C-SPAN needs to be given a jolt of competition and a reminder that monopolies are inevitably self-corrupting.

I will welcome your thoughts.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

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