

December 22, 1997

C-Span
400 N. Capitol N.W. #650
Washington, District of Columbia 20001

Dear Folks,

I have many items I wish to write to you about -- but, just I will tell you about my living ability. I live outside. And I have lived outside since 1978 w/ the exception of a year in prison and a year in a half-way house (both just as cold as winter & frustratingly hot through all summers), 0° or 120° -- doesn't matter -- work to get money so that there is no grief. But America isn't a free ride, so if one doesn't have the money -- there is no money. So I live outside. In this world (when one has been guilty) the acquisition of money can make one honest -- but honesty is fairly transcendent (especially in America). So the streets can be friendlier than a pay "check" ✓.

I only get to watch television at my mom's house -- once a week, if there's something important on the TV, I can also usually go to our city's Community Center to watch a TV that is there. But that is usually a mile out of my rounds (on foot) and another mile afterwards. You see, I only get money by searching for aluminum cans for recycling and my rounds usually cover about 20 miles a day. So I go to watch -- there's probably something of worth watching.

In our region, our cable company offers C-Span and C-Span 2. Whenever I watch TV, these stations anchor my focus and then I scan over 4 "24 hour news services", our weather channel and any local news and talk shows. Now I will enter into suggestions about your production. I watch "Washington Journal"

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whenever I can -- by I can wake in time (I don't use alarm clocks). But I don't dare try to call because of long-distance & fees in being "on hold" -- so I am sending these ideas & criticisms through the mail. So...

Let me begin with something simple. Often-times you are availed to events (via-satellite) ~~from~~ from all over the world. And these are of peoples (Peoples) of other tongues that is drowned out by translators. I can remember being in Paris in '63 and watching a news broadcast with / of an American speech that was not hearable because of the translation. I was only 10 years of age and my American arrogance found this disconcerting. I still believe this to be true. These languages, that I only catch glimpses of, are beautiful!... I find that when I listen, the translation, texts, noun-verb-concept-philosophy-dilemma ALL too difficult for translators to execute as well as they do without getting into confusion and loss of place.

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You must have been ~~be~~ presented with prepared, texts in translation before BEFORE the event! Could you PLEASE honor these Peoples of the world by allowing us to hear their real tongue while screening subtitles of the translation. Please. I think that this would be nice and also help Americans to embrace the many friends on Earth.

This one is going to take a little while -- hope you don't mind. My first encounter with a political convention was the '64' Goldwater convention. I was only 11 years old -- yet I remember wondering

as to ALL those people gathered together in a place. Over the years, I have watched whenever I could. Life can be difficult. I remember Chicago, Miami, Atlanta, San Francisco, New York, Kansas City. Through all of this I find the lessening coverage by NBC, ABC, & CBS to be extremely troubling. When most people cannot even name their two Senators and Representative, I wonder about a selective service "Greetings" that only a rumor of war would buy them a ticket over the river. How so many of you give (media) CEOs lip-service to anyone else's service in the service of life and then diminish grass-root processes of policy is beyond me.

I could go on and on about this. I've seen Normandy Beach, Arlington, Gettysburg, Boot Hill, & hospital emergency rooms. Whether a person carries the weapons of the victors or gets buried in a prison cemetery is all according to their path in life. How they are caught up in their spiral is their blessing or their fate. Making these available to all (I feel) is your (press) obligation. By "these" I mean news coverage of how decision makers are chosen and policy is into being. Having to "wake-up" to people who did it is cruel. Just like an armed robbery in a parking lot so too can a majority stock holder take profits from unknowing employees. I mean, ... I could really scream & cuss & spit about your packaging the political conventions. When you wander about from gas station to super-markets to parks to farms to convenience markets to your own bed-rooms and DON'T EVEN remember ALL those faces are heart & soul.

I just wonder how you can stand there and tell people that you are saying what "is". And then package the debate & the debate's struggle.

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(the press) Full prisons, food stamps, single-parent households, trade imbalances, vanishing species, disease and Nielsens that tell that you are NOT ONE with us. Yet you ~~will~~ continue to stand there & still continue to claim trust & information. Not allowing anyone else to, maybe, actually do the job. We don't need a new, "other" channel or source of information. That only continues to fragment the society and that will only make material consumption the sole motivation that will only collapse. Pavlovian rules and Pavlovian social structure will crumble into anarchy. We don't need for someone else to be honest. We need for you to clean up your promise and we need for you to clean up your follow through!

I live in this town that serves a military base. And most of these people are younger than I who needed a job. Because of their true spirit to be honest they take on the uniform and yet, you, the media have influenced and diminished policy, how, who, why, when to some insignificant news bulletin that is packaged by bites. When I have to live amongst boys and girls who live in a commercial, and I learn of men and women suddenly moral after taking your bait -- and you still are that same you. You know, how do you sleep at night?

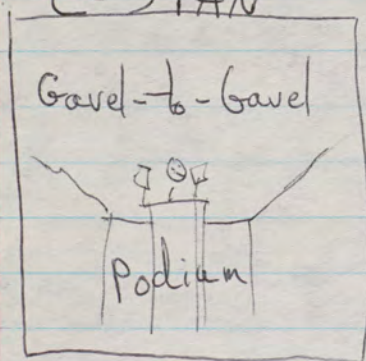
Like I said, I could go on and on about this. How about a little optimism? Your (C-Span) coverage of the Clinton Steam-rall in Chicago was a little different than any I've ever seen. I really liked gavel to gavel focus on the podium. In retrospect, I can see that other coverage in other years might have been manipulation even to a point of being propaganda -- what with going to one thing or another. Now mind you, I

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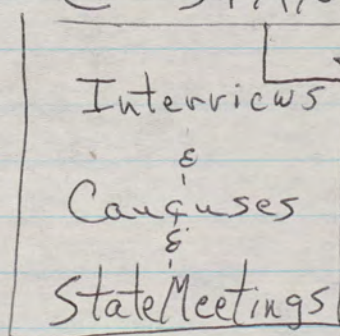
like me; I like how I think; and I like that through my life, I still am interested in State -- BUT I am not about to let "these" off the hook by apathy. There are too many that bleed in maternity wards, crime scenes, international policing etc. to just forget about it. So anyhow, having that podium (gavel to gavel) on television was pretty nice. We just can't ignore the fact that there are already leaders in "all" facets of life already there who have access to the podium to speak their own heart-felt concerns. I liked that gavel-to-gavel.

Yet every once in a while the screen would briefly flash of an "old friend" on the floor or an interview in progress. Is there any possibility that while C-Span stays focused on the podium, could C-Span 2 please screen nothing but interviews (live) and caucuses & state delegation meetings.

C-SPAN



C-SPAN 2



screen in
screen of
gavel-to-
gavel

You know, like, keep C-SPAN with the gavel-to-gavel, but also keep flashing ~~flashing~~ (just like before) of interviews ^{etc.} that are occurring and are available (at the moment) on C-SPAN 2. AND ALSO, if you see the potential of this, maybe you might try to work out agreements with the many networkers and news broadcasters to pick up any of their interviews to air on 2 as they occur and as time will allow. I have studied news for more than 30 years, and through ALL those years, there have

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innumerable examples of one news broadcast service using material from another news broadcast service vis-a-vis "courtesy of ...". There is a possibility that AHH could see the "public service" of allowing your organization to utilize what-ever is available whenever that is available. I really want to know issues; I don't like package deals; and I think that Americans would like to be a little closer to the proceedings.

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The delegates are numbered. The people they represent are real people. They are not a joke. Mothers crying over a son's grave because of the world he once lived in is no laughing matter. Neither is workman's compensation, and prison, and divorce, and pollution, and poverty, and love lost. Maybe this C-SPAN 1 & C-SPAN 2 suggestion might help any of "US AHH" to a more thorough consensus amongst more than just the elite who know the keys down at the precinct.

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Now I would like to move onto some other things that are no more than commentary. Hopefully I haven't forgotten anything to write to you all about as to convention coverage. So... I like when I can wake-up in time to watch Washington Journal. The replays are nice if I missed them -- but I guess I'm snobbish enough to prefer "live". Some of these guests you have I ^{AHH} drive me up a wall! Usually they are informed and informative. I suppose that's nice. But there are so many of them who are extremely arrogant. Sometimes it seems that these punkers know full well that the decisions are made by the "elected" and the only thing you guests (journalists) have to also do is try to hang bureaucrats. It seems that they are soooooo smart and can't get

blamed for anything. Oh my, my, my.

4 Another thing that concerns me about journalistic circles is their treatment of titles. I'm requesting that you exercise influence in asking writers & the wires to capitalize (you know, the larger letter form for the same letter as opposed to using the smaller letter form for that same letter) the first letters in such titles as Senator, Congressman, Representative, President, Pope, Prime Minister, Congress, King, Queen, Constitution, etc., Constitutional. Do you know that if respect is gone, these attitudes permeate all levels of life -- streets & schools aren't safe; traffic lights don't work; super-market foods aren't always safe; many languages don't understand one another; neighborhoods discriminate against neighborhoods. Ah, yes, and your friends were so smart! Why don't you start inviting distinguished & respected members of the foreign press corps, please.

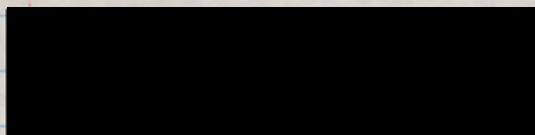
5 One last thing. Would you recommend amongst all press to refer to the Capitol as ALL of Washington in discussing all government. So many times, I see Capitol as Capitol only when referring to The Capitol building. Even more disturbing and even infuriating (in my mind) is the fact that I always see Washington, the Capitol referred to as Washington, the Capitol. Just what kind of fucking shit is this. In that town, damn I hear everyone is sworn to the Constitution! Law does not exist, in our nation, except by the Constitution. Law does not rise into existence except that lawmakers as the Constitution calls for lawmakers as lawmakers may be in existence. Law does not exist except that law will be enforced by those sworn to the same Constitution that

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creates lawmakers creating law as the Constitution.
Washington is not the capital. Washington is
a Capitol whereupon a collective will of
the People is purpose and promise. Capitol
is only things, real and negotiable. Whether or
not they (the People) are elected, or appointed,
or in service, they are ALL in accordance
to Law -- from the Honor Guard at "the Tomb",
to Library of Congress Librarian, to Andrews Air
Force Base, to the Bureau of Printing & Engraving,
to the Naval Observatory. Washington does not
exist only in "a" Capitol building. The mission
is throughout -- the House that is that same House
all over that time & town. I don't know of any lie
and breath worthy of being less than a bank account.

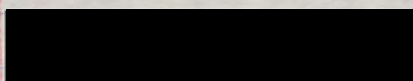
Sincerely



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