

O. Wright
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[REDACTED]
Danbury, CT 06811
November 25, 1996

Dear Mr. Lamb:

C-SPAN provides the public the opportunity to see, live, the speeches, events, etc. as they actually happen. Then, without interpretation or analysis offered by talking heads, we can form our own opinions.

This is the major contribution of C-SPAN, and why it is my channel of choice. It's invaluable.

In planned events such as the morning roundtable, you make every effort to provide balance between the participants. Again your audience is given the opportunity to formulate their own opinions.

Mr. Lamb, you place great value on providing unfiltered news and balanced debate. You cover events of all kinds from the entire spectrum of issues in their entirety, and actually re-broadcast many of them for our time convenience. Am a fan.

To a certain extent, the lady from Cleveland expressed my feelings this morning. She used the word "power"; I would have used "manage," in respect to the political divisions of phone lines for those calling to express their opinions.

A call-in segment should let nature take its course. Anyone of any opinion can call and have equal opportunity to "get-through." I agree that having to identify your political party is an invasion of privacy. A level playing field must be provided for all to express themselves, but it cannot be manufactured. Presently, you are "managing" the calls, assuming that the public is equally divided in political thought. There are times when the issues being discussed have no political identity.

I was unpleasantly surprised to hear you imply that the "conservative" callers were the most guilty of incivility. Some are, and so are some of your non-conservative callers.

Incivility gets one no-where, and your audience can form their own opinions on the value of the callers' comments. Certainly the moderator can say to an uncivil caller,

"We value your opinion, but would prefer you refrain from"

Human nature being what it is, some will misrepresent themselves to get on the air.

It's one of the hazards of a call-in segment with "restrictions." It's not right, no matter the level of frustration, to misrepresent yourself. Lying is wrong.

I hope you all will re-evaluate the only "managed/manipulated" portion of the Washington Journal. Get back to, "Call in and Complain" if you don't like something.

The caller today who urged us to be Americans, emphasizing assimilation, should have also said that assimilation does not mean losing, disregarding, de-valuing one's history or heritage. I agree that extolling "diversity" can be divisive.

I think maintaining divided call-in lines is also divisive. There's nothing more to say. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,