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Brian Lamb
C-Span
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 650
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RE: An idea

Dear Mr. Lamb:

On Monday of this week, January 22, I heard part of your call-in program with Christopher Hitchens as the guest. I have had to get out some legal work, and so only now am able to write to you.

During Monday's program someone mentioned Edward Said, and you asked, "who is he"? Mr. Hitchens responded; and I will try to add a little.

I first became aware of him in 1999, when his autobiography was published. Both the Economist Magazine from Britain, and Mr. Hitchens writing elsewhere, spoke well of the book, and defended it and Mr. Said from a few scurrilous attacks.

I believe that Mr. Said would be an excellent guest for a morning call-in program that you would host, as well as perhaps a Booknotes segment. Your viewers would appreciate how articulate he is and the breadth of his knowledge. If you speak to him and/or read some of his writing, you will see that he is genuinely intellectually rigorous and seeks to be precise.

At Columbia University, Mr. Said holds what is called a University Professorship. There are only eight such positions at that university, and it is the highest rank possible for a professor. He has also given lectures in different parts of the world. And he is quite an accomplished piano player and has written some music criticism. You will find that he is an exceptional individual.

I have included with this letter a book of selected parts from some of Mr. Said's writings. I bought it right before I went on a trip with my mother and brother over the holidays last year, December 2000. We visited my sister, who lives in Europe, and so you will see that the book is slightly scuffed from travel. Normally I write my name and the date of purchase in a book immediately after I buy it. But in grabbing this one before the trip, I did not do so. Thus, the book is for you to keep and enjoy. It has an introduction written by two of his former graduate students.

Your programs are greatly appreciated. You encourage and allow more viewpoints and opinions than the broadcast networks and other cable channels combined, whose censorship is disheartening and often pathetic.

Very truly yours,
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