

October 11, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Lamb:

For the past four years it appears to me, that your morning broadcast of the Washington Journal has supported the Republican use of a "divide and conquer" strategy upon your viewing audience. President Clinton has been subjected to a constant barbarous attack from a Republican Congress and Senate majority leadership whose desire to rule America is quite a different undertaking from the cooperative project of governance.

Let me say, people are rightly outraged that Clinton had an affair with a young intern in the White House and lied about it, but people should also be outraged that Kenneth Starr's report, heighten by a Republican led Congress and the corporate news media, represents an assault not merely on Bill Clinton but, more significant on the presidency, the Constitution and our democracy. It is crucial to the future of all three that it be repudiated before its damage becomes irreversible.

One of C-SPAN's mission statements states -- "To employ production values that accurately convey the business of government rather than distract from it and to conduct all other aspects of its operations consistent with these principles"

For the past nine months, in my humble opinion, you have violated this statement. How? By exploiting human misfortune and stripping politics of any larger meaning.

America's basic problem is not anything Clinton has done, but simply our response to it. Past leaders of our country have done far worse and still made great contributions. Their effectiveness was not curtailed by an insane out-of-proportion national response.


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The role of political leaders and media must be to provide larger perspectives and wise counsel for postive national responses to challenges. Instead, these institutions have become dysfunctional. Television talk shows such as "Investigating the President", "White House In Crisis", "Hardball" and "Washington Journal" guests revel in their One sided pugnacity, spreading wild theories, gossip, angry denunciations with gleeful abandon. Anyone can say anything at any time with little fear of contradiction. This pungency is leading the charge toward total madness instead of guiding us out of it.

America's citizens deserves better. We do have wise and productive alternatives even though they are being overshadowed by Clinton's sex life.

We should be looking where we are heading, how we got to this point, where we have put selfish interests ahead of common interests, what institutional failures are responsible and how can America avoid such insanity in the future. Instead, for the national news media, scandals have become the main obstacle to keeping news in perspective and serving as a distraction machine, systematically diverting to a specacle whenever the political system threatens to deal with an important issue affecting the way people live. This is wrong.

Respectfully,



Alvin, TX 77511-6602

Brazoria County, Texas
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