

Dear Mr. Lamb

1/12/94

Several years ago, I wrote a letter to C-Span on the topic of bias. After listening to you for two additional years, my opinions have changed slightly.

I still think the primary problem is not the bias itself. I still think the primary problem is that many members of the press refuse to admit their bias. The bias is obvious to knowledgeable people and the denials are an insult to the intelligence of thinking people.

Over the last few years, I have come slowly and reluctantly to the viewpoint that many members of the press actually believe that they lack bias -incredible!!!!

Stupidity is perhaps a worst indictment than dishonesty.

Of course, there will always be individuals who think their side gets less time. Despite that, it would certainly be a lot more palatable if we had more "truth in labeling".

In addition, many members of the press don't know how to say, "I don't know". I continually hear some reporter answer a question from your phone audience when it is obvious that the press member knows nothing about the topic.

I would like to make some programming recommendations:

1. How about fewer interviews with members of the Press?
2. How about fewer interviews with multiple guests? I get more info. from conversations than I do from crossfire.
3. In most cases, you do (and should) give equal time to opposing views. Perhaps, you can cut down on the number of biased individuals who refuse to admit the bias. However, even that is probably an act of bias. Perhaps, you can simply stop inviting the most outrageous examples.

(A tongue in cheek suggestion -But perhaps something can be done. Perhaps ask them who they voted for in the last election. Perhaps nothing needs to be done -Looking foolish on TV may be one of our 1st amendment rights.)

4. How about a program discussing C-Span's method for preventing bias among it's own personnel. C-Span's success proves that it is possible to hide bias.

I suspect that you simply hire personnel who know what bias is. You probably tell them not to show their bias, but do little beyond that.

5. How about a program discussing C-Span's method for selecting programs to provide balance.

I Thank God for C-Span. The old saw about "sausages and laws" is certainly true. We need to look at such things even though they might sicken us (eternal vigilance etc.).

Let the sun shine in!!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Oro Valley AZ: 85737

[Redacted]
Oro Valley, Arizona 85737

TUCSON, AZ, 17:59 01/14/94



BRIAN LAMB
C-SPAN
400 N. CAPITAL STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON DC
20001