

February 11, 2001

Dear Brian:

Well, it appears time has slipped by rather quickly since touching base with you; so, here I am. I enjoy the idea that I can communicate with you on a more personal level. My affection for you and C-SPAN are so deeply embedded, it's comfortable to know I can do this without embarrassment.

Firstly, Brian, I want again to thank you for your generous convention gift this summer. Just letting me go to the conventions was gift enough (since my contributions were indeed rather small). It really wowed me! What a wonderful surprise!

I still watch C-SPAN religiously as much as I can and find the program selection (and radio) in most cases as stimulating as ever, certainly more so than anything on cable or broadcasting. This brings me to an article I saw in Roll Call some few months ago, concerning the pressure that is being put on Congress to carry broadcast stations' digital signals. I didn't know you had testified before Senate Commerce in July (perhaps I don't keep informed as much as I should); but, as usual, you laid it on the line to these dummies on the Hill who jump every time the broadcast industry burps. We fought and won once, and you and the cable industry will do so again. I've heard advertising that Comcast is greatly expanding its capacity to 250 channels. Is this the beginning of "compression?" I must confess I don't know much about the issue. I suppose the broadcast industry wants their signals moved to cable. Is this so? Sometimes when you have nothing better to do, you'll enlighten me.

As for other news, Brian. Unfortunately, it is not good. [REDACTED] has breast cancer. It was diagnosed from routine mammography about two weeks ago. We've been doing the usual drill with radiologist oncologists, surgeons, testing, biopsy, etc. We have elected to have surgery done at Alexandria hospital. Surprise you? What! you aren't going to Hopkins, of Georgetown's Lombardi Cancer Center or Mayo, etc. well, no. [REDACTED]'s OBGYN doctor is here off Seminary road. He has just been appointed as head OBGYN guy at Alexandria Hospital. He recommended an Oncologist just around the corner from us on [REDACTED]; he recommended a surgeon who lives a few doors from us on [REDACTED] saw him four years ago. Nice guy. Good recommendations. We are, as is [REDACTED] brother and Son (both doctors, as you know) satisfied. If [REDACTED] has radiation treatment, which we expect, it will be easier on both of us. What is the prognosis? Hard to say, Brian. Her cancer is the invasive type, which means that treatment may be more intense, like radiation, etc. The cancer cell is small. Which is in her favor. We expect to have the surgery done around the first week in March. Then we will have more definite information as to what the future will look like. I know you would have wanted me to tell you this; so, there it is. I will keep you posted. Keep your fingers crossed.

As for me, well, it hasn't been easy, but I feel pretty good. The biggest topic among my friends is trying to remember names. Understand this is part of the aging process. My memory has never been worth a damn, anyway. [REDACTED] is not generally very well, as we have discussed from time to time. I'm devoted many hours to her well being, which includes many hours of work around the house, as she spends much time in bed. However, I managed to get to the gym, do some painting, etc. We do get out to dinner theater and visit friends, so that's the plus side. If I can find the time and the energy, I'm going to explore doing my trivia book of the Capitol. See where it goes. That's a big if. If I don't, I'd like to give all my paper work and research to you and C-SPAN. After all, I did it on your time. Hope you will accept.

One last bit of information. The project I accosted you with regarding a documentary on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Capitol and accepted by Discovery is history. The production company that was involved, Alexandria Productions, is no longer in existence, either. You lose some, you win some. Unfortunately, I did not see one video mention of the anniversary event. Too bad. One of these days there are going to be insightful members of Congress who can appreciate important events and history connected with the Capitol that deserve recognition regardless of those seeking entre are non profit or not. Tighter security may put me out of the touring business , as well. I'll miss it. Hey, nothing stays the same forever. Well, that's it. Stay well; keep up the good works at C-SPAN. I'm proud of everyone. I'll bug you for lunch again one of these days. The best, always. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]