

Pause

[Redacted]
Rochelle Park, NJ 07662
4/31/94

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CSPAN
Suite 650
400 N. Capital St, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear CSPAN...

1, To Connie Brod: a large commendation on the excellent BookNotes Anniversary program... comprehensive and well-edited. And the inclusion of that Pennsy parody shows you can share your laughter with the rest of us. 'Tis good not to take oneself too seriously.

On a contra note, however, some caller in the midwest recently inquired about the mechanics of proposing Brian Lamb for a Presidential medal. 'Twas a good idea and I concur; despite his demurral. See enclosed. I shall also pursue this 'praiseworthy' notion with other organizations.

2. To Susan Swain, you got the detail on the Nixon death and burial ceremonies. Nice job! And frankly the adverse comments didn't even balance the 'beatification' (in one caller's apt words) which followed. ...Which leads to a programming suggestion:

How about a 2 or 3 hr. digest of the Nixon Impeachment Congressional hearings? You have your viewer demographics I presume. How many of them were too young to have witnessed the comic (and tragic) significance of those historical hearings? Despite Republican screams, wouldn't a review of those traumatic hearings serve as a current history-refresher course - worthy of CSPAN? Or is that too recent?

Nonetheless, I look forward to this summer's re-creation of the Lincoln/Douglas debates. [Are these an attentiveness test? Each is 6 hrs long?]

Since there's some paper left, let me throw up another programming suggestion. Close by, in Virginia, there's the upcoming Senatorial race by (Gawdhelpus) Oliver North. Would detailed, day-by-day, coverage of this race act as a simulcrum of other races... an illustration of the process? Could you marshal the local TV forces, and editing, to present, say, a 15-min ^{daily} slug, on who says what/when, as the race proceeds into Nov.? Could you combine this with a "typical" HR race, with the same sort of coverage? Yes, each Congressional contest is different, but focussing in detail on several might be instructive.

No response is expected from this note. Just keep up the balanced, frequently surprising, but always informative, job you're doing.

Sincerely, /

[Redacted]

encl. RC-CSPAN

[REDACTED]
Rochelle Park, NJ 07662
4/30/94

President William Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC

Dear President Clinton:

I would like to nominate for serious consideration for one of the above medals Brian Lamb of CSPAN.

CSPAN, I need hardly remind you, has been a positive influence on public information for years. By showing gavel-to-gavel coverage of both the House and Senate legislative proceedings, plus committee hearings, etc. it has stimulated public insight into the real workings of government, both the serious and the trivial. It has been equally even-handed in its coverage of think-tank proceedings; Liberal/Conservative, Democrat or Republican, etc. CSPAN enjoys expanded use in classrooms across the country, a far more meaningful and impressive approach than a civics textbook.

CSPAN has never made a case for its sponsors, so far as I know. It's a private, non-profit business venture, funded entirely by the cable industry. We all have gripes about our own cable systems, yet it is almost a mantra among its millions of viewers: "Thank God for CSPAN!" I'm sure this suggestion would be seconded by most of them.

Were I having my druthers I'd award a medal to the whole of CSPAN - just as the Nobel Peace Prize people selected, eg, Amnesty Int'l. My understanding, though, is that the prize goes to an individual. In that case, Brian Lamb, as the organizer, facilitator and inspirational honcho, most certainly deserves it. He, and the organization/philosophy of equal-broadcast, and perceptive insight as to where the Communications Revolution should go, are certainly worthy of consideration.

As a noteworthy paranthetical thought, Lamb's modest, self-effacing image is such that were you to favor him with a medal, CSPAN would NOT telecast it; no matter how many Presidential brownie points you might gain thereby.

Please do consider this suggestion, among many other worthys.

Most sincerely,
[REDACTED]

→ Bc: CSPAN