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August 6, 1990

[REDACTED]  
East Point, GA 30364

RE: Letter to C-SPAN Television Network

Dear Mr. Wells:

We are in receipt of your letter on the above and we will forward your concerns to our C-SPAN Representative.

Sincerely,

PRIME CABLE

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Collie Burnett, Jr.", written over the typed name.

Collie Burnett, Jr.  
Vice President of Marketing

CB:mlm

cc: C-SPAN, Washington, D.C.

July 20, 1990

██████████  
East Point, GA 30364

TN: ██████████

C-Span Television Network  
Viewer Information Department  
Attn: Angela Hunter or Program Director  
400 North Capitol Street, N.W.  
Suite 650  
Washington, DC 20002  
TN: (202) 737-3220

Dear Director:

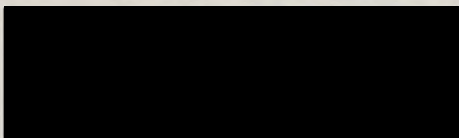
On June 29, 1990, 9:15pm EST, you aired the entire FBI footage of the Washington, DC Mayor arrest tape of Marion Barry on national television. I, as well as many others, am still in awe and disbelief. This letter is to express my deep unappreciation of your degrading display of non-caringness to the human race. In this case, the career of a black public official. I feel that showing the 1 hour and 12 minute conviction video was unnecessary and a cheap means of "boosting" your ratings. A simple solution of getting your point across to America and the world could have been easily accomplished by showing only the incriminating evidence and scenes of the actual crime itself. Displaying Mr. Barry's personal and moral life was in no doubt an absolute invasion of privacy - keeping in mind, a violation of his constitutional rights granted by the Declaration of Independence.

In addition, these type crimes happen each and every day in many high public official offices across the United States and other nations. There is no doubt that your network can gain access to other misdemeanors, so why haven't you exploited those? For example, Actor Rob Lowe was found guilty here in Atlanta, GA of his sexual activities with a minor, which was indeed videotaped. What about Presidents Reagan and Nixon, Jim Baker, Pete Rose, singer James Brown, etc. Did their entire rendezvous get exploited and blown out of proportion as was Mr. Barry? I would definitely like to know your motive for airing the complete Barry program (which included all profanity and all scenes unedited and uncut - AS IS!). But more importantly, since the video was filmed in January, 1990, why did you wait until June, 1990 to show it? Was it because elections and votings are probably taking place as you read this letter, or was it because of Mr. Barry's trial, which by coincidence was in progress around the time the tape was shown!? Need I say more, C-Span Director?

Thanks to your selfishness, you are by all means placing doubts on the minds of many potential voters in their elections of future officials to lead our great country. This in turn will discriminate against some of the more qualified candidates from acquiring city, state, local as well as governmental positions. Not to mention the grand effect which will further lower blacks and minorities from any possibility of achieving higher rankings and authority in public offices.

Furthermore, this will not be the end of the opposition to your network's choice of "prime time" viewings. You may be fortunate if you're not faced with a court-related issue from someone else or another organization I contact with greater authority than I have. In my opinion, this is the type of biased, unfair, negative journalism which should receive immediate attention from the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Licensing Bureau whenever the time period arises to have your license renewed.

Sincerely,



P.S./ I called your office today and I was told that I can purchase a copy of the Mayor Barry videotape from your video department for \$100.00 (VHS). They agreed to send me a form to complete and return with my payment if I was still interested. I thought this was illegal to even offer to sell the tape, unless, I assume you do have legal distribution rights or permissions to it? Pending further approval, a petition will soon follow this memo.

cc: Federal Communication Commission (FCC)  
Congressional Black Caucus  
Mayor's Office, Washington, DC  
NAACP  
Maynard Jackson, Atlanta  
Andrew Young, Atlanta  
Michael Lomax, Atlanta  
Ron Sailor, Commentator  
Tony Brown, Journalist  
Prime Cable, Atlanta  
WVEE-103FM Atlanta  
WSB-TV2 Atlanta  
WXIA-TV11 Atlanta  
CBS-TV5 Atlanta