

September 1, 1993

Mr. Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 412
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Rush Limbaugh Program Flouts the First Amendment

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I believe you will be interested in the slightly different Constitutional spin given below to the vilifications of the Rush Limbaugh Radio Program. Please read on.

Granted, Rush Limbaugh is a master of his art of distortion and ridicule. As such, he balances on the outer edges of First Amendment protections, playing the basest of slander ("false or unwarranted allegations of crime, of immoral or antisocial behavior, or of unprofessional activities that denigrate the individual in the opinion of his peers") against the spirit of The Bill Of Rights. In his ego-pumping game, he defies the First Amendment rather than respecting it.

But, one could argue, if Free Speech protects burning the Flag, why shouldn't it protect Rush Limbaugh. It's a horse race.

This argument fails, however, when it comes to the severe political screening of callers to the Rush Limbaugh Program:

1. Probably 99 out of every 100 callers are denied participation in discussion of national issues because they are not in political sync with Limbaugh's bombast. This is somewhat a deprivation of rights.
2. Those who do get through in no way represent the vox populi. They are, instead, fans, ditto-heads. ("Hi, Rush. Mega dittos. I couldn't tie my shoes before I tuned in to you!")
3. Most significantly, the import of the program is that Rush and his callers represent the core spirit of the American citizenry. (If this were close to true, screening would not be necessary.)

This is not representation, it is manipulation aimed at achieving a result. It is propaganda not far removed from that of Joseph Goebbels.

4. An articulate citizen, breaking through the screen, meets one of two fates: Either Rush becomes discombobulated, cuts the caller off and gives a postmortem lecture on the misconceptions of the caller; or he extends himself into a losing conversation that ends with his berating the caller for his/her insensitivity to the horrors of the current rape of the rich (translated: "all of us;")

5. Limbaugh is incapable of exchanging ideas. Of conversing.

Ditto-heads are not the result of First Amendment protections of Free Speech. They are parts of the cast of the Rush Limbaugh Program. The exclusion of representative Americans from this dialogue is a distortion of Freedom of Expression.

Ban Rush Limbaugh? Not at all!

Unscreen his supporting cast of callers? Yes! Then the man will fall of his own weight and vacuousness.

The First Amendment is being besmirched. This should not be!

Concerned,

Flushing, NY 11354

D.S.
You asked a caller: What to do?
This menace should be confronted. His
artificial world shrivels in the face of
facts.

[REDACTED]
Flushing, NY 11354



Mr. Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

20001-1311 12

