

001304 FEB 1991

[REDACTED]
Henderson, Ky. 42420

February 14, 1991

C-Span
400 N. Capitol St.
Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Cliff Cincaid, 2-14-91
call in program

Dear C-Span:

MAR 2 - ANS'D

Your ongoing coverage of the Congressional debates on the Gulf War has been invaluable. It is certainly appropriate to air other responsible commentary on opposing views regarding this conflict. However, your program with Cliff Cincaid was appalling. His comments about the peace marches, the N.O.W. and Peter Arnett bordered on slander and were chillingly reminiscent of McCarthy era yellow journalism.

Certainly the January 26 march included a wide spectrum of Americans from church groups to veterans to gay rights activists to marxists to pro-choice activists to anti-abortion activists to relatives of people serving in the Gulf. Before joining the march, I carefully considered how Saddam Hussein might use such demonstrations to his advantage. I also considered how my own President might misinterpret my silence if I stayed at home. I found that staying home would be an unconscionable option. Democracy is not a spectator sport. My taxes dollars help fuel the killing in the war. I certainly have a right and responsibility to participate in the debate in any way that I can.

I would point out to you that while communists may have taken part in the peace marches, they made no secret of their presence and certainly weren't manipulating the entire gathering of 250,000 people. The following weekend some 3500 people gathered in support of President Bush and his action in the Gulf. The Hell's Angels were reportedly part of that demonstration. Although some people may have considered them to be a negative presence, they probably weren't "manipulating" the rest of the crowd.

cc: S. Trahern ✓

C-Span pg 2

Hopefully, your future presentations will be of a nature which will encourage healthy, open debate which is essential to a functioning democracy. Mr. Cincaid, disturbingly, was the type of guest who would silence dissent with his red-baiting and bigotry. Such a presence undermines your responsibility to present conscionable and balanced information to your viewers.

Sincerely,

