

[REDACTED]
4-24-97

Brian Sant -

I am very sorry,
Brian, but your chickens
are now starting to
come home to roost —
Washington Journal!

[REDACTED]

S.WJ

Fans vow to keep C-SPAN on the air

By Peter Kaplan
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

When C-SPAN2 was dumped from her local channel lineup, Monica Hunt of Savannah, Ga., suspected her cable company did it for "political" reasons. Faced with the same situation in Springfield, Pa., Eileen Schuler blamed "corporates" bent on controlling what the public sees.

From the other side of the continent, Mark R. Cohen of Santa Monica, Calif., wrote to the same

C-SPAN Internet site to bemoan the loss of what he calls "the finger in the dike of Big Brotherism."

C-SPAN fans have been getting upset, to put it mildly, as cash-hungry cable companies around the nation have started bumping off the only channel that offers them an unprocessed view of the federal government.

The protests come as no surprise to media gurus. In a survey published last year by the Center for Media and Public Affairs, C-SPAN ranked as one of the most

credible sources of news available — more credible than the major networks and most newspapers.

"There's nothing out there that does anything like what C-SPAN does," said Ted Smith, a journalism professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, a co-author of the survey. "It's the only unedited coverage available of a lot of major political events."

Out of more than 70 million cable-connected homes that had

see C-SPAN, page 15

ranked Cleveland outweigh those in Phoenix, which was 29th? To flesh

that influenced overeating.

The anthropologists queried people in restaurants, health clubs and

PETER STEINER



Culprits were butter-milk biscuits in Cleveland. In Atlanta, it was Southern-style comfort food. Dallas could not resist steak and Tex-Mex — also the downfall in Phoenix. Pizza and ethnic foods tempted New Yorkers.

Washington had no reigning favorites. Close to 100 Washington respondents "could not name the most popular food." They do concede they prefer restaurant fare to the lonely home-cooked meal, even though Washington was ranked last on the list in the number of restaurants in proportion to total population. San Francisco was first.

"These are all myths," said Sally E. Smith, director of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance, a 60-chapter group which works to end weight discrimination. "This report is not pre-

Cable ready

Brian Lamb, CEO of C-SPAN, was recently discussing the plight of C-SPAN with Barry Farber on Mr. Farber's radio talk show. Mr. Lamb was concerned that the decision by the Supreme Court that requires cable companies to carry local stations could result in some cable markets dropping C-SPAN from their lineup. Mr. Lamb suggested that calls to the local cable provider would help keep C-SPAN on the air.

The local cable companies might take the action that C-SPAN opted for. To maintain a "balance" of callers to the cable company, three phone numbers could be provided, one for "yes" callers, one for "no" callers, and the other for "who cares" callers.

Perhaps Mr. Lamb would then understand why conservatives have taken C-SPAN to task over its attempt to "balance" Republican, Democratic and other callers to his program.

Owen E. Smith
Carlsbad, New Mexico

George
Cabrera, \$20,000 donor
and convicted cocaine
smuggler.

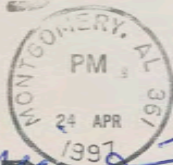
U.S. House

205 Democratic seats purchased
with foreign money.

**demand an independent
59—or mail in your
elow.**

on of **America Sold Out**—a detailed
and to Attorney General Janet Reno
and mail this coupon to:

MONTGOMERY AL 361 04/24/97



Mr. Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol St., NW
Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

