

[REDACTED]
St. Louis, Missouri
June 25, 1993

Mr. Brian Lamb
C/O C-SPAN VIEWER SERVICES
Suite 650
400 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

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Dear Brian:

Since I'm not sure to whom this letter ought to be addressed, I direct it to you and C-SPAN. Because of insensitive comments that are tolerated from viewers daily, I believe you need to re-think whether or not your program is an asset or a disaster to our government. It appears to be deteriorating into the latter.

Subsequently, I find much fault with the extent to which you put up with personal attacks on your guests(Larry King wouldn't). Yesterday morning's program with Senator Reid, and the program that followed, with a representative from "Mother Jones'" Magazine, are cases in point. It's not a matter of a guest's ability to endure criticism, but a question of ethics, civility and how far the public will go to get their small-minded viewpoints across. Some go to extremes; many times at fever-pitch.

As I watched yesterday, Senator Reid was the object of ignorant, callous, derisive criticism from certain viewers; even though he didn't exclude himself from going along with the Reagan-Bush era in order to accommodate them and allow government to function(few, if any, can say this about Republicans today). However, one male "wannabe expert" began delving into the Senator's personal life, asking him about his pension benefits and other matters that were none of his business, with the callous intent of humiliating him. Brian, some adults are like disgusting, obnoxious, spiteful children, in their need to even the score with those

in authority(I'm a former teacher of elementary children). Consequently, if such people don't recognize limits, it's your place to set limits for them. These very callers, who are frustrated and looking for scapegoats out of their financial difficulties today, are some of the same ones who found it easy to "sail on" with the economic foolhardiness of the '80s. But the ship is now anchored, and they don't want to accept the consequences.

Please don't suggest that I turn off my TV or find another station. No way! That's too easy! I'm duty-bound to listen and hope you'll use your authority to disconnect those who continually annoy the rest of us with the same, trite, stupid comments, aimed at your guests(It is understandable why some will not appear on C-SPAN). If they can't stick to the subject under discussion, without personal attacks, you and your colleagues control the button that can silence them. This is not an act of demagoguery; just a return to civil discussion. There's no substitute for intelligent discourse. But the crap that C-SPAN tolerates is a disgrace to television.

Moreover, some of your callers are not observers of the 30-day policy. They are on more frequently. And a good, sharp ear can identify repeaters according to voice range, pitch and fluctuation. Perhaps I'm mistaken, but this program has become one, of, by and for Republicans. Quality is the key; not monopoly.

Finally, you and your colleagues ought to stop these continuous attacks upon President Clinton. The same people "chew the rag" about him all too frequently, with hopes of influencing public opinion. We are aware of this. If what goes on today in the ^{name} ~~name~~ of free speech is democracy, we are most pitiable. I'm glad we have representative government; for direct democracy would result in fighting in the streets.



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