

criticism

[REDACTED]
Auburn, CA 95604
April 24, 1994

Mr. Brian Lamb
CEO, C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol St., N. W., Ste. 650
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

Thank you so very much for C-SPAN. I enjoy almost everything on it, including your "Booknotes" program and your reporters' roundup shows. The contributions that C-SPAN makes to public debate are immeasurable.

On very many occasions I have considered your coverage of events and your choice of commentators to be judicious and fair. But it does seem to me that speakers or reporters commonly have either a right-wing bias or that they lean over backwards to criticize the Clinton administration. Free speech is a glorious thing, but you have surely afforded great gobs of it to the likes of Dornan, Limbaugh, and Brock.

And this brings me to a present complaint. I have been trying all weekend to catch a repeat airing of H. R. Clinton's press conference of last Friday so that I might record it on my VCR. So I watched for program announcements and set up my VCR accordingly. Much to my surprise, the program did not air. I watched for another airing, saw the announcement, and set my machine again. When the time came, still no Hillary! and no explanation for the run-around, either. Finally I went to the telephone, called the recorded scheduling tape, and was told that Hillary would indeed be on, but on C-SPAN II rather than I, and at "1:12 p. m.," which I take to be a mistake for 1:12 a. m.

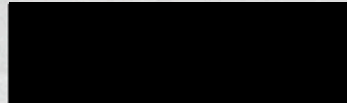
This really is too bad. It looks very much as if C-SPAN does not want to give publicity to what is widely regarded as a most successful press conference on the matters of Whitewater and commodities trading. C-SPAN has been willing to repeat ad nauseum a number of other programs, some of them a half-dozen times, but after allowing people to pummel the Clintons at will for months now, you allow Mrs. Clinton to speak for herself just once, and that at 1:12 p. m. (or a.m.--whatever). Of course, that hour is two hours from the time of this writing, so maybe I will be disappointed yet again.

I cannot tell you how bad I feel to lose my trust in C-SPAN's fairness and objectivity. If these programming changes were not the result of political bias, surely an announcer could have come on the air and explained matters. But I watched all day long, and no such thing occurred. And if you consider Mrs. Clinton's

actions to be less than newsworthy, why did you repeatedly air the speech of Barbara Bush, which also occurred on last Friday? And on prime time?

I think that all men should understand that Hillary Rodham Clinton is a powerful symbol to millions of American women. To attempt to silence her or to denigrate her is a serious political mistake.

Sincerely yours,



P.S. It happened again! No Hillary when scheduled; and the program has disappeared entirely from the schedule for the next eight hours —!???

I give up.

4/22 8pm

4/23 1:21 Am

4/23 4:47

4/24 9:02 am

4/24 4:31 pm

11:12 pm

Antoinette M. Henney