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May 14, 1993

Dear C-Span,

Thank you for the only news available uncut and without bias! After watching an entire event on C-Span, I can no longer tolerate the network sound bites that are usually not even the most relevant part of the event or speech.

However, I do have a complaint. I do not feel that callers should be asked to say who they voted for unless the panelists also are asked. Many times callers make very good points either for or against the Clinton administration, but when it is known which way they voted we say it's just sour grapes or they are just die hard Democrats. And besides, I resent the journalists sitting there making very biased statements while staunchly maintaining they are not. I respect them more when they admit their views. Of course, this does not apply to all the journalists--there is that rare bird who tries to point out both sides of an issue. I also wish you could have more journalists from the midwest or other areas of the country who know what people outside the beltway want. Most of the regulars on C-Span are too involved in the Washington scene .

I would also like to see more shows where someone from both sides are there at the same time so blatant untruths can be refuted . When they are not challenged we don't know for sure if they are true or not. Of course, I realize both sides could be stretching the truth. One guest I could do without, however, is Representative Lucien Blackwell. He did not allow Representative Nick Smith to finish any comments without interruption, and chided Rep. Smith for speaking too long, yet he himself droned on and on making sure he got his points across. Rep. Smith was apparently not rude enough to compete with him. However, not all congressmen are like Rep. Blackwell and are able to exchange their views, allowing others to do the same.

I do think you have a balanced line up and it is so refreshing to be able to see what really happened and hear the full text of a speech without the networks filtering it through their viewpoint. I don't have time to watch as much as I'd like, but C-Span is the only reason I haven't cancelled my cable subscription after all the price hikes!


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