

[REDACTED]

~

August 19, 1996

C-SPAN:

I very much enjoy C-SPAN and it is the cable channel that I watch the most. I find your coverage of the political activities in this country to be excellent.

However, you have recently begun a practice which I think is unwise and misguided. You have recently started dividing your callers into Republican or Democrat, Clinton supporters and Dole supporters, and in some cases even Eastern United States and Western United States. I appreciate the argument that this is an effort to get a collection of callers which reflect the approximate political diversity in the country. While this seems an admirable goal, I think this is an unwise ~~course~~ course of action and counter to the basic character of the C-SPAN networks.

C-SPAN provides unedited coverage of political events and does not interpret

O-WJ

or "contextualize" as do the
mainstream news outlets.

Given this "raw" coverage of
political events, it seems that you
ought to take and broadcast your
telephone callers "raw." Everyone who
calls in should have an equal chance of
getting through and getting their
views on the air. ~~It seems~~ Choosing
to ensure "equal time" in your callers
who get on the air seems like a type
of interpretation and editing which
does not reflect the spirit of C-SPAN.

I will continue to watch C-SPAN,
and am trying to get Comcast of Central
New Jersey to add C-SPAN II to their
service. I hope that you will change
your current policy regarding caller-
filtering.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Plainsboro, NJ 08536