

June 28, 1996

Open Letter  
Warren Mitchell  
Manager  
TCI Cable of San Joaquin

Greetings,

Recently, for economic reasons, it became necessary to interrupt TCI cable service. C-SPAN was sorrily missed and the service reinstituted as soon as possible. Now I wondered why? In review, it seems that your programming is neither responsible to the community you serve nor to your stockholders! For you charge \$25.88/month for C-SPAN and you do not offer C-SPAN2 at all!

C-SPAN & C-SPAN2 represent the **only** current media assets now even **attempting** to present the structural essence of our society in an accurate, balanced, unfiltered, unbiased forum. As such they are unique and vitally important.

For instance, many of the people who now live in the United States appear to have little feeling for what our society represents; how difficult it was to achieve; how easily it can all be lost. This is demonstrated by the very large percentage of the electorate who failed to vote in recent elections. Such general disregard for the political theme is a serious threat to our democracy. At the very least, it turns the control of national agenda over to fringe minorities. In our particular community there are many recent immigrants and individuals for which English is a halting second language. These people deserve an opportunity to review our government in a format which is easy to comprehend and at the lowest possible cost.

If you were responsible to this community you would offer both C-SPAN & C-SPAN2 as a part of your Basic Service; at \$12.05/month. Instead,

here is an unimaginative mix from the bottom of the barrel. Here you pander to purveyors of prurient polemics; to clownish, supercilious, doctrinaire pundits who agendize current events; and to the usual mind-numbing sensationalism and violence. Of what value may be found is in duplication: two PBS channels with the same programs and similar programs on both Fresno and Sacramento channels.

In serving your stockholders you do not appear to be paying attention to your competition which is heating up at a magarate: conventional, big-dish, at least 4 different small dish, several telephone companies on the verge with the Internet lurking in the background. You don't seem to realize that the cable technology itself is under threat. In the meantime, if you want customer loyalty be responsible; give us C-SPAN2 and put C-SPAN on Basic Service. One of you competitors does!

Sincerely,