


Rochelle Park, NJ 07662
12/17/93

C-SPAN
400 North Carolina St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I'll join what is becoming almost a mantra; Thank God for C-SPAN!

I'm a morning-junkie (evening's obtruding on east coast dinner time), but would like to suggest a (weekend/late nite) call-in program idea. Why not a deliberately structured shot for your audience to make a statement or comment, or whatever - ala "Special Orders" in the HR? Rigorously limit the statement time to one or two minutes. This would encourage callers to talk in "sound-bites, the current PC form.

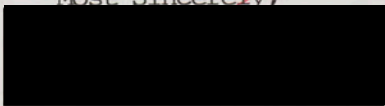
It'd require an even handed, yet stern, timekeeper -and probably not a popular job - but who knows? Such an acknowledged forum would, I think, tend to keep the steady stream of fixed idea folk (Perot-people, Libertarians, etc who tend to be mono-paranoid) off their automatic redialers) and open the national forum a tad during the regular call-in shows.

Call-ins are, of course, audio only, and the interim video is a problem. Hell, either show stockfootage (sans sound) of surf, waving fields of grain, etc, or the moderator actively answering upcoming calls and moderating the present on air situation. Such a format as suggested here would require some active screening re subject/orientation/etc. in order to air a balanced program, plus the guts to cut-off a caller who strays from a pre-announced subject too far. Hey, it's an idea (one among many, I'm sure). but it just might work!

As an afterthought, I could wish yawl had more clout with the Cable Cos. who fund you. Eg, I've bitched at my local monopoly (TCI of Northern NJ) to add C-SPAN 2 to their offerings, to no avail. They're caught between the benighted FCC and the profits. Hopefully, as cable capacity expands C-SPAN will fill in presently perceived gaps - like showing House Rules or Ways&Means Committee hearings - where much of the real action is.

Anyway, I congratulate you again. Collectively you're doing an exemplary job in an otherwise mostly trash-TV world. How about a (well-advertised) call-in show in "Suggestions for C-SPAN's Future"? Ah well. PLEASE. keep pushing the "envelope".

Most Sincerely,





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