

June 7, 1999

Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol St., N.W., # 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I have been watching your American's President series since the initial program on George Washington and would like to express my appreciation for your efforts to educate the public on such a vital area of historic importance. I inherited a love of American History from my mother and as a consequence I have read about many of the presidents. However, each and every one of your segments has helped me to better understand where these individuals fit into the evolution of our democracy.

While I wish to compliment you on the quality of your programming and for proving that TV can indeed rise above the mind numbing efforts of the commercial networks and cable channels, I would like to suggest that you consider developing a similar series on a subject of equal historic importance to the nation. I have not watched a segment of the American President's series yet that has not gotten side tracked by the issue of slavery; most frequently it seems by inarticulate, uninformed and emotional callers, both white and black. It seems to me that you could do no greater service to the country than to provide a forum in which to discuss the historical context of an issue so divisive that it brought about a great civil war. That war as we know was long and bloody and while it ended the practice of slavery forever it left us divided as a people, a condition in which we remain in to this day.

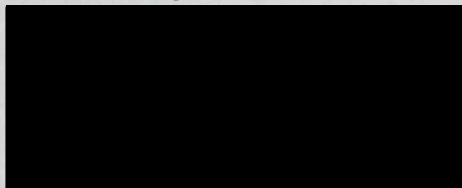
While it seems to me that a series on slavery could be done in many fewer segments than that on the American President's, there is no dearth of material available nor venues lacking for such a series. There are many historical sites across the land that could be used to act as a backdrop for the kind of discussions featured in the President's series: an example might be Frederick Douglas' home there in Washington; another might be one of several sites that make up the "Black Heritage" Trail in Boston.

I hope that you will give my suggestion the consideration that I am convinced it deserves. In the meantime I look forward to watching each and every one of the remaining programs you have scheduled for the President's series and hope to hear that you will have something on the drawing board for a future series on slavery. I should probably tell you that I am a white male, who is retired from the corporate world, and who among other things is a college educated Marine Vietnam veteran, whose great grandfather, a Union soldier from Illinois, accompanied General Sherman through Georgia on his "March to the Sea." I should also add that my wife of more than twenty years is the college educated

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owner of a small business and the descendant of slaves. Both of us by the way consider ourselves to be Americans plain and simple and would not consider the use of a hyphen to describe our ethnicity.

Sincerely,



San Francisco, Ca. 94118

