

June 17, 1984

C-SPAN
Suite 155
400 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear C-Span people,

I am one of your Honorable Mentions! I couldn't believe it when I saw my name. But I watched the re-run on Saturday and there it was again. I am so thrilled! It is like an approbation of my regard (excessive according to many people to whom I extoll your virtues) for all of you and everything you do on the air. According to Brian, I think I have Pam to thank. I think she did the sifting. If so, please express a gigantic thank you to her for me. (I am hoping she opens this and reads it first herself.)

I had the most difficult time restraining myself from calling in to the call-in shows ever since. I have had a mighty urge to say, "it's me, you liked my letter, you gave me such excitement, etc... ad infinitum." I decided I should write instead and not inflict my selfishenthusiasm on the nationwide audience.

That dear man, Ed Allen, told Brian that he was struck by the sincerity of the letters, and that certainly describes mine. I would have been out of my skull with joy to win the trip and see you all, but there was no way I could subvert my heartfelt feelings by trying to write a winning letter, so I didn't even try. I didn't even count the words or edit it or write it over or anything. It just spewed forth onto the page and I signed it and let it go at that. Can you imagine how SHOCKED I was when I saw my name? I am certain that it didn't take me over a half hour to write, and probably less time than that.

I think the honor entitles me to a "C-Span Junkie" pin. I really and truly am one. I am a working legal secretary, but I get up at six (an hour early) every morning to watch Brian with his newsmen - it stays on until I go to work, and the first thing I do when I come home is turn it on - where it stays until I go to bed - also all day Saturday and Sunday. While I do "chores" I listen and watch with one eye. I sometimes change the channel because of a repeat, but I almost always flip the dial and come right back to the repeat.

I bought the Wall Street Journal after Brian mentioned the front-page article about C-Span. Good article! I was as proud as if I had something to do with it. I cut it out and xeroxed copies and passed them around at work.

To prove I'm a junkie, let me tell you that I even watch Congressman Gonzales through his COUNTLESS special orders. I'm here to tell you that Newt Gingrich gets a bum rap for wasting money - I'm positive he hasn't caught up with Gonzales yet. I will have to admit that I have watched Mr. Gonzales ONLY (and frustratingly) because I don't want to miss what comes next and I keep hoping he'll shut up soon. People that didn't know the chamber was empty during special orders haven't endured those hours that I have with Mr. Gonzales. If it hadn't been obvious that no one was there, it would have been obvious when you listened to him that NOBODY would have sat through it if they didn't have to. He is my UN-favorite.

I even watch the roll-call votes. Which reminds me, your music is great!

My favorite part of the programming is the call-in show - I like some a lot more than others. The same is true of the committee hearings, my next favorite, probably. But NONE OF IT bores me. Seeing Congress in session is wonderful. Your coverage of the Iowa caucus was stupendous.

I watch so much that I KNOW you are totally fair with respect to balancing the time between Republicans and Democrats. I WOULD like to see the Libertarians given more time. First of all, they're usually brighter than the average bear and some of their ideas are novel and thought-provoking. Second, there are a lot more of them around than most people think. Did you know, for example, that Ed Clark got 920,859 votes in the 1980 election versus Gus Hall's 43,871 (I really enjoyed your show with Gus Hall) and that (these figures are from the World Almanac) all 16 candidates listed, including the Citizen's party and Gus Hall plus 16,921 individual write-in votes (the whole field, in other words, after John Anderson) only totalled 474,699 votes. So Ed Clark got almost twice as many as all the rest put together. I should think people would be interested in hearing more from them. Also, John Anderson only got about 5½ times as many votes as Ed Clark - if my quick guesstimate is right.

No, it's a little more than six times as many: 5,719,437 to 920,859.

I thank you so much for the honor. On top of the hours and hours of enjoyment you provide me, it's too good to be true.

Sincerely,

Santa Barbara, California 93101

P.S. Mr. Crosswhite's letter certainly deserved to win. It was wonderful. I'm looking forward to seeing him. I hope you ask him more about his "left-wing conservative" views. I THINK I understand what he means. I like the surprises you offer, too, as he does.

P.P.S. If you would like to know (even if you wouldn't) who I would most like to have met in D.C. had I been able to go, it would be Carrie, the rest of you all a close second - and AFTER that, Newt Gingrich, Jim Wright, and Tip. The C-Span "stars" that I admire the most are Cap Weinberger (HUGE respect for that man), George Schultz, and David Stockman.