



The Legislature of Rockland County

Allison-Parris County Office Building
New City, New York 10956

004258 SEP 26 91

Fax

September 23, 1991

Viewer Services

CNN

400 North Capital Street, NW

Suite 650

Washington, DC 20001

Dear Sir/Madam:

It is unusual that I have a chance to watch your news show on C-Span Live, however, on August 21st, 1991, I was watching the show with Susan Swain, "Events in the Soviet Union", which was continued with Bruce Collins. At the beginning of the show, at approximately 2:00 P.M., your news programmers did an excellent job on giving visual and graphics on the constituent republics of the old USSR. Your staff included the population, major industries and products and the major resources of each of the republics, as well as indicating a history of each republic as to when it was controlled by other nations and when it had enjoyed its independence.

I was fortunate enough to be one of the callers from Valley Cottage, New York, and indicated that the information concerning Ukraine was inaccurate. I had brought two points to the attention of Bruce Collins, who acknowledged them on the air.

First, that it did not indicate that the Ukraine was independent as a free state for over two years during the time of the Russian Revolution.

This is important to know for all those thirsty for independence in Ukraine who might otherwise believe that it has always been a part of either Russia or the USSR.

Communists, through their skillful misinformation in the past, never acknowledged this independence even though under Perestroika the truth has come out about many of these historical events.

For your further information on this point, the Ukraine declared its independence on November 20, 1917, as a

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territory and then again declared its total sovereignty and independence as a free and independent state on January 22, 1918. The Treaty of Riga between Poland and Leninist Russia on March 11, 1921, recognized a Ukrainian Soviet Republic.

This is the background on why the Ukraine was a free and independent state for more than a two-year period.

The second point I made was that unbeknownst to most people of our wonderful country, both the Ukraine and White Russia (Belo Russia) have had a vote in the United Nations since its inception unfairly giving the Soviet communist government three votes in the United Nations to our one. As an educator, elected official and second generation Ukrainian American, I have on numerous occasions brought this to the attention of those in the media and government and they have simply ignored this unique situation. One country-one vote rule existed for all UN members except the USSR for more than 50 years.

The USSR has controlled its government, its economy, its destiny, its borders, occupied its territories and has not allowed for the free passage of its citizens until recently. Any Ukrainian Catholic, Orthodox, or Jew would have to acquire visas, not from its Embassy at its capital, Kiev, but through the Russian Embassy in Moscow. Hopefully that will be changed in the future with a totally free and sovereign Ukraine.

In closing, I thank your network, Susan Swain and Bruce Collins for having such an informative show and appreciate the fact that Bruce Collins knew of these two important points and acknowledged their existence and truthfulness. I would hope that your staff will include my remarks in their updated information service so that those oversights will not happen in the future.

We are blessed to be in a free America with a free Press that allows all truths to be available to all.

Sincerely yours,

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[REDACTED]
Legislator,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

cc: Editor, Ukrainian Weekly
Commander, Ukrainian Veterans Post No. 19, Spring Valley