

[REDACTED]

25 April, 1984

I WATCH C-SPAN BECAUSE...

I like to watch C-SPAN because of the small pleasures it provides me and because of its potential to become a forum for better understanding between Americans.

First, a few words about the small pleasures. Sharing the morning newspapers with millions of people is one of them. These are eggshell times and we need to know each day what the major events are, and how all of our leaders are performing. "What's in your newspaper this morning?" is a question that makes me feel we are all part of a gigantic civics class. Sometimes my interest is peaked as the responses to an editorial or commentary from a major newspaper and later I go to the library's out-of-town-paper section and read the entire article. When I leave for work, after viewing the "civics lesson", I silently wish that we can get at least a "C" grade from Professor Lamb.

It was on C-SPAN that many of us learned about caucussing for the first time, and it was great fun. Ordinary people, like you and me assembling for a common goal of selecting delegates to a convention. The members seemed at first to be uncomfortable, caucussing there with the lights and cameras, but they adjusted

because, after all you are only portraying yourself on C-SPAN. Some of the caucus participants knew very little of the process while others had been there before but had forgotten and needed refresher instruction. Then we observed the serious students who knew the procedures and rules and wished to make quick adjustments. I appreciated the efforts of all who took part in the celebration of the IOWA caucus.

C-SPAN's call in segment is also a favorite of mine. Despite the occasional mean spirited caller, the segment is informative as well as usually very entertaining.

Where else can I eavesdrop on a lovely conversation between a gentleman caller from White House, Texas, and a gracious lady human rights activist. She insisted she could not cultivate her garden while there are crusades to conduct; and, the Texan caller understands her views and tells her he likes her a lot. Heartwarming and poignant.

I challenge C-SPAN to conduct an open forum where viewers can call and share their personal crusades and their lives experiences.

I watch C-SPAN because it allows Americans to communicate and share with each other our own unique view of life. C-SPAN is a means of allowing us to make it through the day with the hope that "Change is gonna come..."

