

[REDACTED]
Auburn, Alabama 36830
August 12, 1993

Mr. Bryan Lamb
C-SPAN, 400 North Capital Street
Suite 650
Washington, D. C. 20001

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Dear Bryan:

The Booknotes aired on August 8th was interesting. I have forgotten the author's name but I will be on the lookout for the book and will eventually read it. The author reported on an instance where a person went before the ABC officials in an attempt to get them to change their approach to covering the 1992 presidential race. The result being that they slammed the door in his face. I recommend that you interview him and get his ideas out to the C-SPAN viewers. His example of sports reporters knowing and using the personal history of every player and manager to analyze past and future behavior of sports figures is an excellent example of a point I tried to make earlier.

You will not have recalled, but on February 18th, I wrote you that reporters were not reading the "war paint" and identifying the "guerilla tactics" of partisan public speakers. Later, I was pleased to see Bruce try to ferrit out some of these indices, without much success, from a Congressional Quarterly? guest.

For sure, there is a real need to challange public speakers when they are blatently untruthful, giving false impressions, or biased. Agressive reporting may initially cause advance copies to dry up, in order to prevent reporters from being prepared. Still, good reporter homework and aggressive action, of the type practiced in sports, should be able make speakers retreat from over-extended statements.

The sad point is that truthful reporting may backfire. Suppose it is reported that Senator Byrd voted on 200 money bills in a given term. Suppose he wangled for his own state, not only a disportionate share, but also an unfair share of the funds, in 190 of those bills. Such results could get him relected in his own district by a larger margin than ever before. How do we introduce the concept of fairness to all of the states? Was it the highway bill several years ago that was rigged by the chairman from Pennsylvania so that the lion's share of the increases in funding went into his own district? What to do? Somehow we have got to start to confront those wheelers and dealers for what they are. They are using the system for their own benefit. Only after they reach saturation in their own districts do they consider the national interest. George Will wrote about this situation.

Your faithful viewer,
[REDACTED]

PS. Don't bother to reply!

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