

CC: B. Lamb  
S. Trahern  
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ALEX. VA 22304 3098-90

September 12, 1990

Mr. Brian Lamb, C-SPAN  
444 Capitol Street N.W.  
Washington DC - 20001

SEP 30 ANS'D

SEP 18 REC'D

Dear Mr. Lamb:

There is no doubt about your popularity when it comes to the daily programs and call-ins; they generally appear to be even-handed and fair - at least on the surface.

However, for more than three years, I have noticed an alarming phenomenon when it concerns call-in's immediately following a national issue, such as president Bush's speech to Congress last night.

The first seven calls were negative, and those calling in appeared to have prior "familiarity" with you, Mr. Lamb, i.e. "Hi Brian, I try to stay in touch." "This is (Gloria, or Ann or whatever), how are you, Brian?"

My impression is that C-Span has a special call-in panel, used only when a controlled response is desirable, such as elections, special national issues, etc.. where C-Span attempts to show opposition to whatever the republican administration is trying to accomplish.

The following is a breakdown of the 42 calls received by C-Span, regarding President Bush's congressional address:



Of a total of 42 call-in's, the first seven were negative, thus setting a tone of disagreement with the President's policies. Then interspersed were calls "good, except..." and, interestingly enough, the last 10 calls were all positive (that was when "the special panel" was no longer used).

Call-In's re: President Bush's Speech

POSITIVE	16	(last 10 all positive)
GOOD, EXCEPT..	11	(mingled in between)
NEGATIVE	15	(first 7 all negative)

So when you examine the overall breakdown, it looks innocent enough, but when the first 7 calls are negative, it sets the tone, particularly surprising when you take into account that President Bush has an overall approval rating of 80%. The manipulation is all too clear. This time you really goofed!

Will you be using the same tactic regarding call-in's concerning judge David Souter's nomination to the Supreme Court?

If what I suspect is the real truth about C-Span, you should be classified as one of the most devious persons around.

Sincerely,

