


ENGLEWOOD, NJ 07631

March 24, 1994

Mr. Brian Lamb
C-Span
400 No. Capitol St, N.W.
Suite 650
Washington D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I sent to Ms. Blackman after her appearance on your show last week. I feel such terrible frustration with the media and don't know what to do with it so I sent off a burst of anger toward someone who appeared to have reservations also.

Newspeople hired by the communications industry are the gatekeepers to information we all need. They're the ones at the source and they decide what and how we'll hear it. The country can't afford for them to operate like a standard corporation. They have to take responsibility for outcomes beyond the bottom line on the annual report.

As you can see in my letter to Ms. Blackman I do feel we're in a downward slide. People need to be inspired to make changes, from the top echelons of the government down to the poorest beggar. Your industry could be a potent force just by getting out of the way, by deciding not to not to inflame, not to catch our attention by constantly playing upon our fears our anger, our differences.

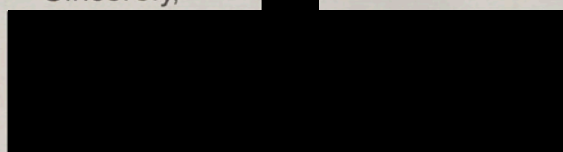
I have a story to tell you. When my youngest son was an infant I was referred by my pediatrician to a surgeon to see if he needed a hernia operation. I trusted the pediatrician. I went to the surgeon, was horrified by the total seediness of his office, and then listened as he told me that Tom needed immediate surgery. I struck out on my own for a second opinion. I looked for someone who had a name in the field. He said he didn't want to know the name of my pediatrician or the first surgeon. He did want to tell me that Tom didn't have a hernia or need any surgery. I have always found that physicians do not want to be involved in messiness. In essence, they close ranks and the losers are the patient community. That is exactly how I think the media operates and the losers are the readers, the viewers, and in time, the whole country will lose.

Does C-Span want to promote a debate within the industry? In just the Whitewater affair alone I've heard more than one reporter express concern. But, they speak only when spoken to. They can do a heck of a lot better than that.

It's so important. Everything is. We have a world to pass on to our children.

I'm very glad C-Span is there.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

March 21, 1994

Ms. Ann Blackman
Washington Correspondent
Time Magazine
Time Life Building
Rockefeller Center
N.Y., N.Y. 10020

Dear Ms. Blackman,

I caught a portion of C-Span on Friday morning. Your responses to Whitewater inquiries seemed to reveal some caution and concern. Would you listen to yet another troubled media watcher/reader?

I live, in what would be labeled by a roving t.v. camerawoman, a pleasant middle class neighborhood. Underneath, however, is plenty that isn't pleasant;

- The town's police blotter lists daily incidents of burglary, assault, drug and handgun possession, you name it, sometimes a homicide.

- Almost every house on our block has been burglarized.

- Our school system is literally overloaded with disruptive kids who have no motivation to learn.

- Real estate values have dropped as the schools have deteriorated.

In other areas of my life:

- My husband, a salesman, has lost the business of a slew of former business customers in their forties and fifties who've found themselves suddenly out of the job they've held for years.

- I have to call my grown, very responsible children at each election and beg them to vote-they don't see the point.

- I live and work in an interracial atmosphere. We all recognize that underneath even the best relations between people of different backgrounds is a sense of distrust, often fear, waiting to be triggered.

All of the above are only the things that come to my mind at this moment, that scare me.

I voted for the presidential candidate who promised new ideas. Some of the old solutions to problems still work but clearly we have social and economic dilemmas that are not responding to traditional remedies. The square pegs aren't fitting into the

round holes!

From its position of enormous influence the press can exacerbate things. It distorts and inflames in its drive to survive. It often appeals to the worse angels of our nature. What's wrong with the better ones? Newspeople are part of the leadership of the country whether you like to see yourselves that way or not. Help us to think in a constructive atmosphere. Otherwise you may *not* survive. There may be no newspapers as we know them today if we continue down a road to disintegration.

In the meantime, we're frightened out here. We need some hope, some sense that we're tackling our problems. The media has already neutralized Clinton's ability to lead. Who can take him seriously at this point? You'll finish him off during the hearings. Then what?