

April 15, 1984

To: C-Span
Suite # 155
400 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C., 20001

From: [REDACTED] Home telephone: Area Code [REDACTED]
Portland, Maine 04103

I watch C-Span because of what it does and who I am!

C-Span is a point of reality in the midst of the malaise created by managed news programs which telescope many issues into abbreviated time slots.

I am a citizen who is bewildered by the growing feeling of depersonalized participation in the democratic processes which regulate my country, a citizen with a growing contempt for the carnival atmosphere of politics and the inability to take meaningful action which would replace "the politician" with "the statesman".

In the words of Emily Dickinson, "I'm nobody! Who are you? Are you-nobody -Too?"

I am neither rich nor powerful nor famous, but I do possess the right to vote in a free election. I guard this right jealously and take seriously the moral obligation to be informed on issues and events.

Fortunately, you are somebody. Through the facilities of C-Span, I can vicariously enter the hallowed halls of Congress and other high places which would be inaccessible to me. I can hear the speaker utter his or her words. I can deal with real and timely issues. I can be informed to draw my own conclusions, and I am intellectually stimulated by the medium of television.

By watching C-Span, I can see the faces and hear the voices of those who shape the destiny of my country; and when it is time to use my vote at the polling place, I can cast my vote knowledgeably as an evaluation of the performances of these public servants.

C-Span is a panacea for the miasma which emanates from the monotony of commercial TV which seeks to entertain by exploiting the sensationalism of crime, violence, sex or dull-witted humor.

C-Span involves viewer participation by soliciting telephone responses and questions. It is enlightening to hear similar thoughts or differing points of view.

I watch C-Span because I need the services it provides.

[REDACTED]

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