

[REDACTED]  
Littleton, Colorado 80122

Freedom of speech is why we watch C-SPAN.

Our forefathers had great wisdom in giving to us the freedom to speak our minds, to express our needs and to make clear our intentions without fear of reprisal or persecution. It is the fundamental freedom on which rests all other freedoms.

But freedom of speech goes futher than just speaking freely. It really means the freedom to know. Knowledge is the foundation. With knowledge our speech takes on the power to insure the future of all our freedoms. Without it speaking freely is a hollow exercise.

C-SPAN is providing the knowledge. Programming such as the House of Representatives coverage, the rape trial at New Bedford, or the daily segments on special issues such as acid rain, the vaious policy setting conventions and the life bending results of the Three Mile Island diaster, help the viewer to know the realities of our world. This information, presented in the unbiased, un-editoralized fashion so characteristic of C-SPAN, lets the listener decide for himself where he stands. Then C-SPAN takes the lesson full circle and provides a nation wide call-in segment with well informed guests who can discuss intelligently a broad range of subjects. Provided for us here is a practical exercise in freedom of speech based on knowledge. C-SPAN is freedom of speech in action.

Not only does C-SPAN provide the information on current events which shape our persent and our future, but it also provides us with an uncluttered view of the people involved in the decision making process. The viewer gets to see what is real; from the bill-makers to the singular representative casting his vote. Personalities and convictions become clear and a better understanding is gained on how and why bills are passed or economic decisions are made. With this information we can make better decisions. We can participate in the process of government more efficiently. Our rhetoric is more sound, our judgements more reliable. The freedom of their speech gives strength to the freedom of our speech.

From the beginning of our nation we have valued the freedom to speak above all else. With this freedom we have built a powerful country and have shown the world what can be done with this kind of strength. Sometimes, I think, our populous takes this freedom and our strength for granted. C-SPAN is providing American with the opportunity to reacquaint itself with the beauty and the power of speaking freely. We can continue to better ourselves by using this tool and by keeping its edge sharp with information. C-SPAN endeavors to give to its public the true ideal of the first ammendment.

We watch C-SPAN because we want and need to know. We watch C-SPAN because it tries to fill these needs. We watch C-SPAN because we respect the freedom of speech in all its glory and C-SPAN presents the essence of this freedom.

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