

cc: Brian Lamb ✓  
T. Murphy ✓

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[REDACTED]  
STUART, FL. 34994

NOVEMBER 3, 1990

C-SPAN  
400 N. CAPITAL ST. NW  
SUITE 650  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

Dear Friends of the Public,

I am enclosing a copy of an article I wrote three years ago regarding my enjoyment of the then new C-SPAN I on our local cable TV station. Nothing has changed!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

*[Handwritten signature]*

*1. Jm.*

The following letter appeared in the Stuart News, Letters to the Editor column during November 1987. Nothing has changed!

C O P Y

# WHAT PRICE OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS?

Editor:

If you long for TV programming free of commercials, featuring slap-stick comedy, mild violence and no sex, then I call your attention to C-SPAN on channel 23. The show features a half ring circus complete with ringmaster wielding a wooden mallet, 434 clowns dressed nearly alike, demonstration the mystic and ancient art of prestidigitation, deception, slight of hand, evasion, procrastination and prevarication. They are the personification of donkeys and elephants acting like demented jackasses. Thus presented are your elected representatives at work in the United States Congress, House of Representatives. The other half of the circus is the Senate, but they have not made TV as yet.

The manner in which these civil servants conduct our nation's legislative business is criminal. Recently they attempted to increase their pay by several thousands of dollars through blatant subterfuge attempting to include the pay raise embedded in a piece of legislation dealing with our nation's budget deficit. Had they been successful it would have been the third pay raise this year. Damn clever for jackasses!

What recourse have we as taxpayers? Vote the scoundrels out! Someone has to be our representatives. How are we to know our politicians? What public figures do you know who have been honored for their truthfulness, veracity and honesty? We are dependent on the news media to keep us informed. Can the media be trusted to be honest and unbiased in their reporting? I have my fears regarding the media and the distortion of the news, however that is a subject for a future letter.

Watch your government in action and draw your own conclusions. Watch the waste of time while the ringmaster attempts to gain order by repeatedly banging the gavel while being completely ignored by our lawmakers. Watch the electronic vote take far longer than the time allotted. The other day the donkeys pulled a fast one on the elephants, but the elephants retaliated by parliamentary sleight of hand, introducing a second legislative day in the same 24-hour period. One of the most enlightening and comprehensive speeches dealing with the current budget deficit problem was presented before an empty house at 10:30 at night.

For our beloved democratic form of government to continue to flourish we must not only get out the vote at election time, but keep a sharp eye on our legislators and report directly to them when we do not like what they are doing.