

[REDACTED]  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22308-1841

December 2, 1998

C-SPAN  
ATTENTION: Brian Lamb  
400 North Capitol Street, NW  
Suite 650  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

This letter contains four recommendations and one "nit pick" accompanied by related discussions. I hope that the contents of this letter will improve C-SPAN, especially the Washington Journal program. I have given a lot of thought to my suggestions and hope that you will receive them in the context of improvement.

**RECOMMENDATION #1:**

Announce to your audience that you will disconnect their telephone call if their political persuasion does not match the pre-established lines.

**DISCUSSION #1:**

The intent of this recommendation: avoid the impersonators, liars, fibers, deceivers, et al., who telephone on the wrong line. They will suffer the consequences for their deceptions, impersonations, lying, fibbing, et al., by not having their words heard and have to pay for the phone call.

I truly believe that your audience will support this recommendation. Deceptions, impersonations, lying, fibbing, et al. have their consequences and many of us hold firm on this fact.

**Point of information for your Washington Journal program:** Does it truly matter on what line a person phones? After all, interviewers now announce that "we have a caller on the Liberal line, Conservative line or Moderate line". Consequently, I have come to realize that a political persuasion does not matter and I can phone on any line. Is my observation and realization correct? If not, why does your staff make the foregoing statement?

o. wj

**RECOMMENDATION #2:**

Present the telephone lines on in a different order each day. That is Liberal, Conservative, Moderate; Conservative, Moderate, Liberal; Moderate, Liberal, Conservative, etc.

**DISCUSSION #2:**

You nicely agreed to comply with this suggestion from a viewer in November and implemented it for a couple of weeks. Unfortunately, as of this date, your people have returned to the old way. That is, Liberal, Conservative, Moderate. What happened?

**RECOMMENDATION #3:**

Determine why I cannot connect with the Washington Journal when I try to phone on my designated. The problem is not on my end of the line. I have check.

**DISCUSSION #3:**

Twice, during the month of November, I tried to contact the Washington Journal program on the Conservative line. The most recent date: November 28. Each time, I reported my connection problem to C-SPAN. On November 30 I spoke with Justin. He promised to investigate what had happened and get back to me. I gave him my address and phone numbers for work and home.

**My problem:** On two different days in November, I tried, to contact Washington Journal on the Conservative line I could not connect.

**What happened?:** The phone just rang, rang, and rang, until the line was disconnected.

**I wanted to determine were I could place the problem.** So, I tried the Liberal and Moderate lines. I connected and they were busy. At least I got my answer: my telephone work. This fact led me to believe that the problem lay at the feet of C-SPAN. Thus, I contacted the offices of C-SPAN in early November as well as on November 30 when I spoke with Justin and asked for a reply.

**RECOMMENDATION #4:**

Identify the political persuasions of your interviewers on C-SPAN. Fair is fair. Also, at the risk of repeating an earlier letter, ask the guests if they have an affiliation with the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission.



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#### DISCUSSION #4:

Let-in the sunshine. We deserve to know this portion of the background of the guests. We should know their background beyond the usual education and work experience. We should also know who speaks for Americans who speaks for a world government, even though they are Americans or Internationalists. Having the information I have noted would help your listeners better understand the direction from which your guests come.

#### NIT PICKS:

Please attract guests that speak correct and proper English.

#### DISCUSSION #5:

I wonder how some of your guests attain their prominent positions by not speaking correct and proper English. Don't employers care? Some of your guests have used:

1. Improper subject words such as, "me" when they should have used "I";
2. dangling participles such as, "the direction you come **from**" instead of "the direction **from which** you come" occur way too often;
3. redundancies such as, "past history shows " (all factual history is past); and
4. over worked phrase such as, " I mean" which appears to have replaced the overused one of the late 60's and early 70's: "you know".

For additional information you may contact me during the day at [REDACTED] in the evening at [REDACTED] or at the address identified on the letterhead of this stationery.

I look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]