

9-18-93

Dear Brian:

You have some serious explaining to do.

On Saturday, I turned on C-SPAN to watch live, gavel-to-gavel coverage of Senator Donald Riegle's anti-NAFTA rally. At least I thought it was going to be gavel-to-gavel.

C-SPAN did stay around long enough to show Ross Perot. I guess I should be thankful for that. But with two speakers remaining (including Pat Choate who I particularly wanted to hear), C-SPAN abruptly terminated coverage with no explanation.

Why, I wondered. To show a live, Presidential press conference? Or some live event on the Middle East peace accord? No. C-SPAN pulled the plug to show Tuesday's House hearing on the economy — a prerecorded program C-SPAN could have aired anytime!

I and millions of other Americans waited all week to see this rally. NAFTA is a vital issue and one of intense interest nationwide. When President Clinton held his NAFTA rally, C-SPAN covered it gavel-to-gavel. You owed it to your viewers to do the same for the rally hosted by Senator Riegle. C-SPAN's decision to cover all of Clinton's

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rally but only part of Senator Riegle's is censorship pure and simple, and a betrayal of the principle upon which C-SPAN was founded.

I'm furious at C-SPAN, and I'm ashamed of you.

Your partisanship is showing, Brian. And, I repeat, you have some serious explaining to do.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Edmonds, WA 98020-0326

P.S. And please don't use the excuse that C-SPAN only bought 2 hours of satellite time. That would explain why only 2 hours were shown live. But it wouldn't explain why C-SPAN cameras didn't cover the rest of the rally so that it could be shown in its entirety when it was reaired Saturday night. C-SPAN does this all the time.

Why wasn't it done for the rally? This is a question, not a comment. Please respond.

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