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TO: C-SPAN/Washington, DC  
SUBJECT: Programming Department  
FROM: [REDACTED] [VOICE & FAX]

Folk:

I have what I believe to be an excellent suggestion:

Would it not make sense and improve your service to the nation to do viewer call-in during these 15 minute + vote periods in the House? I love classical music as much as anyone -- and have a large bust of Beethoven prominently displayed in my family room to prove it -- but watching MOC "smokin' and jokin'" on the floor under a vote total graphic is like watching paint dry.

I'd suggest you explain to viewers that, inasmuch as you can't predict precisely when these votes will occur, they call on the basis that you will clear the lines when these periods end. Anyone with sufficient sense to call with anything worth airing to the entire country ought to also have sufficient sense to monitor his/her TV screen to get some idea when the calling period (vote period) will end and not hang on the line to be "cleared" and hacked off for having been.

A split screen with the vote tally graphic would solve that problem. Or, since watching the face of the host is about as exciting as watching MOC cruise the House floor, leave the present screen in place and broadcast just the audio from the studio. If studio video is omitted, the host could be a normal board man/engineer cross-trained for the task, thereby keeping your overhead to a minimum.

At a time when the American people are itching -- for the first time in my memory -- to speak out on the increasingly serious and life-impacting issues of the day, this would be an excellent way to serve your viewers.

Since most MOC monitor C-SPAN in their offices while off the floor, they could also get a better sense of where the American people are headed so they might -- in their traditionally fearless fashion -- rush to the head of the group to lead them there. Though it is my fervent prayer that the American people are headed back to the Constitution, I'm not counting on it. But that's the subject of another writing.

I'd appreciate your thoughts on this suggestion.

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