

4/26/94

Brian Lamb
C-Span
400 N Capitol St Ste 650
Washington DC 20001

Dear Brian,

The purpose of this letter, as I imagine 99% of your mail is, is to congratulate you on your coverage.

In this case, your coverage of the Nixon happenings of today--the onloading of his body at West Point airport, the arrival of his body at the Nixon Library.

The main thing that I appreciated about your coverage that you, unlike the major networks, told the viewer what was happening and then backed off and let the events speak for themselves to the viewers.

One of the major problems with network news today is the fact that they--the producers--cannot stand absolute silence.

These producers should instead of allowing drivel such as, "The procession is now arriving, they seem to be made up mainly of 1994 black Cadillacs, even the hearse."

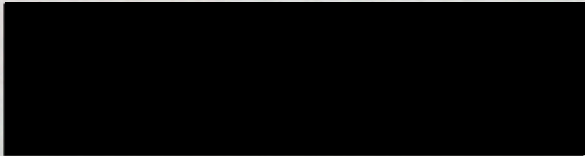
"Connie, do you think that the Lincoln people will be offended by the use of these cars, and why were the Cadillacs chosen!"

Of course the above is a parody of what I heard and saw today when I dared to veer away from your excellent coverage which allowed the silence to increase the reverance and solemnity of the event.

You and your staff are to be commended every working day regarding your excellent style in covering the major and minor events of our day.

As a person(I am sure with your photographic memory you will remember the following words) with a masters degree in journalism and government in politics my only regret is that I never had the opportunity to work for you.

Sincerely,



[REDACTED]
Richmond VA 23225
[REDACTED]

P S I hope that you and most of America will remember that the preponderance of calls that came throughout this country on CNN and your network were favorable to Richard M Nixon.

My Nixon story, for what it is worth.

Back in around 1966, I was on my way from law school in Morgantown WV to my family in Martinsville VA.

Having voted for Nixon absentee from a small Methodist school in southwest Virginia [REDACTED] when he had the election stolen from him 1960, I had always respected the man.

I found out that he would be at the Roanoke airport that day.

Having an old style Polaroid camera I pulled off the the highway and positioned myself along the fence.

Nixon worked the fence. As he approached, I quickly took the picture, and just as quickly shook his hand.

He smiled, but being an old guidance counselor I too could sense his shyness.

I went back to Morgantown had the shot enlarged, sent it to Nixon.

Back came the picture with the following inscription, "To [REDACTED] with every good wish for the years ahead, Sincerely Richard M Nixon.

Brian, due to turbulent circumstances in my life I lost that picture.

Last year, while at my mothers I found the original.

Quickly I had it blown up and off in the mails to Nixon.

Several weeks later back came the photo with the following inscription, "Best wishes to [REDACTED], LOVE Richard Nixon.

I thought some aide was pulling my chain.

But the other night on CNN someone on his staff, or someone in the know, noted that in his later years he began signing everything in that manner.

He was a complex man, but a great man.

Coleman McCarthy, William Greider, Cannon and Conrad, Witcover*, and all the rest of his detractors can continue their vitrol toward him.

But to me he will always be the greatest president of the 20th century.

The other night on CNN the man who cut his hair loved him, the guy who sold him his suits loved him, the neighbors with whom he talked each and every day loved him.

Any man who had been president and then worked behind the counter of a deli when they were shorthanded and let 300 kids into his home on Halloween can't be all bad.

Keep up the good work and I hope that I have not bored you. I have given up trying to call and have resolved to just keep my head down and my mouth shut.

Again regards and respect,

 *ONC-SPAN*
* As I pen these lines Witcover is continuing this by noting Nixon and Pat never held hands in public. Did he not see the most emotion expressed in Nixon's life on his(Nixon's) face at the funeral of Pat Nixon.

People are different. I noted today the fact that as they approached the plane at Stewart Air Base at West Point, Julie and David were holding hands, while Tricia and her husband were strolling several steps beyond each other.