

11 April 1994

Austin, Texas 78731

Brian Lamb, Founder
C-Span Television
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

It troubles me that you are such a nice person--so reasonable, so balanced, so intelligent. It troubles me because C-Span and you have become-- what I am certain you didn't set out to make of it--a real purveyor of hate and rumor and misinformation. Your experiment to have telephone calls from your viewers is a major disaster. I have heard more hate expressed from the calls I have heard than from any other source in my life. I hope that your experiment with the Fax is providing you with another view of things, though we don't hear of it, if they do. That is the first bone I want to pick with you.

The second is that if yours is primarily a public service operation, what makes you think that having journalists and media representatives on too frequently fulfills that particular responsibility. The media and the press, like the entertainers who have been appearing for years on other talk shows, prove only that they don't have all that much to say--that they have opinions worth more or less what we pay for them--and that they are predictable bores. Gigot is paid by the Wall Street Journal and earns his money. I have no respect for either. The people from the Washington Times or from the American Spectator, or those folks from all those "readily available" conservative think tanks, or those people who held high administrative positions in earlier administrations have not shown me, in their appearances on C-Span that they were or are as wise as you must think them to be. They are more often than not purely partisan and often ignorant or willing to misinform about facts or carry rumors either by statement or a shrug of the shoulder. Most of the time their performances, and that is what their appearances often become, are mean-spirited or snide or spiteful. The end result of all of this is that you and C-Span are helping to make this nation ungovernable. And I certainly don't think that was your original intention. May I respectfully suggest that you stop the "call-in" shows, that you never again have any of the **radio** talk-show hosts--regardless of whether they are "liberal or conservative" on your program, and that you let the columnists and the journalists alone for awhile.

If you don't realize the harm that Rush Limbaugh and others of his ilk are causing, then there truly is no hope. Let me make it clear that Rush has every right to his opinion and to enunciate them on the street corner, but I don't think he and these other folks have a right to pollute our airwaves. I have written to the Federal Communications Commission about this particular problem.

I propose that you find real experts in the various fields of interest in the public policy debates, that you include more of the persons from the governing agencies (our bureaucracy)--many of whom are truly non-partisan to describe the problems, the successes and failures of policy, etc.

Brian, there was absolutely no reason to have covered that American Spectator Dinner. That certainly was not a public affairs event.

Hillary Clinton's commodity trading account is a fact. Something that happened cannot be "**improbable**" if, in fact it happened. So, what these people are saying quite openly is that somebody--Hillary in particular--did something illegal for which she or they or somebody should be fined, imprisoned, drawn and quartered, or kept from dealing with "health care" problems.

Have you or Gigot or any of these people asked any of the brokerage houses whether they have certain customers for whom they allow extra time on margin calls?

Don't be surprised to find that kind of thing happens quite frequently, which, of course, doesn't excuse it, but it does take it out of the "felony" category. How ironic that Hillary and Bill are trying to preserve the private insurance structure of the health care industry!

Finally, this "Jim Leach Purity" that wants to abolish all states which have "one-party" systems, like that poor benighted Arkansas, makes me sick. I don't need a lecture about government from a multi-millionaire who inherited his money, comes from a small town in Iowa, refuses to accept PAC money, and hates democrats. The greatest scandals in the world are the subsidies to Iowa farmers for not growing whatever--and most Iowans are Republicans. Tell me that Mr. Leach voted against those subsidies. But, you see, I don't think that makes him a hypocrite to have supported them. That is what our system is all about. Arkansans and Texans can handle their own political affairs quite nicely, thank you. While Texas is largely a one-party state, too, there are great divisions within the party itself ranging from extremely conservative to extremely liberal. Arkansas is also like that. Republicans need to review a little of the history of the Reconstruction in the South in order to understand Southern Politics. Iowa could use a lot more democrats--and hopefully, if the people get mad enough it might just get some more.

There used to be some reasonable Republicans around who might even have signed the Declaration of Independence and supported the Constitution. But listening to the cacaphony of voices presently polluting our air waves in the guise of public opinion and public affairs programs, one wonders where they have all gone.

This thing is more serious than you realize, Brian. I write to you because you might be able to do something about it after you have thought it over. And whatever you do will be most welcome to those of us out here are about to give up on the media itself. Thanks for listening.

Sincerely yours,

