

January 24, 1994

C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol St., N.W.
Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001
Attn: Mr. Brian Lamb

Dear Mr. Lamb,

I am writing to ask for assistance. I am a resident of the northwest side of Chicago and a serious C-SPAN junkie. Chicago is divided into several cable franchises and the one that serves our area made a recent scheduling decision which adversely affects access to C-SPAN and C-SPAN 2.

Specifically, C-SPAN had been available daily, 24 hours a day. It is now available daily with an interruption from 5:00 P.M. until 11:00 P.M. when we get local religious programming. This, of course, means we can no longer see live evening House sessions, special orders or your live evening interview show.

C-SPAN 2 has previously been available daily with an interruption from 5:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. daily. It is now available only from 12 Midnight until 7:00 A.M.. Our local cable listing calls this "Live Senate Hearings".

I called and wrote the City of Chicago Cable Commission and the local cable company with my complaint to no avail. Apparently, the problem is caused by a new law which allows anyone with a broadcast license and appropriate signal strength access to our cable system. I've been told that C-SPAN was the only network which did not have a firm committment for access and therefore you had to share time with these new broadcasters. I have been forced to conclude that learning how to knit and macrame and paint and cook is far more important than any debate or vote or history one might observe while watching the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives.

The cable company has told me that no amount of complaint can change this decision and it's locked in stone. In the next breath, I was told by the same people that if enough people complain, changes could be made and nothing is set in stone. I'm very confused and real upset. You are the best thing on T.V., you're impartial and informative and you show us how nation becomes governed and I can't watch because finger-painting-by-the-numbers is on.

Our cable company is Prime Cable, phone # (312)794-2000. Mr. Lamb, please do what you can to solve this problem. Withdrawl is hell!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60646
[REDACTED]

Chicago, Il. 60646



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Personal