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C-Span
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Gentlemen:

As a frequent viewer and some-time writer, I am amazed at the tunnel vision that I find in our political society.

Whenever a Democrat politician or liberal member of the media appear on your show, they generally are supportive of whatever this democratic administration does or is trying to do.

Whenever a Republican politician or conservative member of the media appear on your program, they generally are supportive of whatever the republicans are doing to thwart whatever the current administration does or is trying to do.

There seems to be little issue by issue cross-over among your guests. Each are apologists for their own self-interest. As though their political party is more important than the issues facing us today. It would sure be refreshing to hear an honest, independent analysis of an issue without regard to the political orientation of the analyst.

But it gets worse. When "learned" professors (usually from some major university) get on the air and lecture about American values, or American economics...whatever...they generally do so from the vantage point of having held decent paying jobs for a long time, jobs with little challenge from foreign competition, jobs which hold (or will hold) tenure so they will be employed forever, plus they live their lives, basically isolated from the real world. These people sound good because "teaching" is what they do, but it usually it's just theory. What is reality is how distant they are from the real world. They deal every day with an isolated population, young students usually in their early twenties who have not yet had to face the typical hard problems of the work-a-day world vis jobs, wages, mortgages, health care, raising kids and all the rest, and whose interests are therefore not that of the working man or women. So how can they talk about our problems with any authority that is not just theory? What can they bring to the table in the way of experience? Personally, I don't relate to them and I don't see how they can relate to me. Their work experience is so different, their financial condition assured. They are surrounded by people whose concerns are in no way my concerns. So how can they speak for me or for any of us? I think it would be far better if they left their jobs for a two year sabbatical and went on the road and worked for a living. Then when they got back, maybe

they'd know more about real life and more about what they are talking about.

Finally, I wish to discuss my favorite C-Span guest. This is the guy or gal from some think tank or other (The National Association for the Elimination of Politicians from Government, N.A.E.P.G., (pronounced nae-pag). This gentlemen will proceed for an hour to talk about government expenditures, budgets, tax policy, taxpayer reaction to government policies, the meaning and purpose of government, the pros and cons of tax increases etc etc etc. all the while he personally works for a tax free foundation which pays him very well, pays the others who work with him very well, and picks up expenses. The only thing his organization does not do, is...it doesn't pay taxes. It's non-profit and tax free. A business which operates from public funds without paying any taxes no matter how much money they raise.

Yet these folks are perfectly willing to instruct us on government and the people's participation in government. They know all about it. Well, maybe...but what they really know about is how to make a living. Work for a tax free business. Why not? Right now there are 1.2 MILLION of them with 29,000 more being added every year. All tax free and all willing to come on to the show to instruct Americans on how to bear their own fair share of America's burden. It's more "do as I say and not as I do".

Everything from international trade policies to internal budget manipulation is discussed by C-Span but the people who talk about it are always "insiders". Have you ever thought of the impact on our government when all those Yale and Princeton and Harvard graduates join up in Washington ten years later? Talk about a Northeast Establishment, these people are all trained alike so they talk alike and dress alike and think alike. We need to break up this band of merry men and get some new blood into the game.

Here's my solution to ALL of America's problems. Since I believe we COULD solve every one of our problems if it wasn't for all the greedy, crooked, self-serving politicians and lawyers gumming up the works inside the beltway, here's what we do:

We convene Congress (House and Senate) in a different city every term. Following each session, select by vote the city for the next session and convene there. That's it.

Sound dumb? Can't be done? Well, maybe, but maybe it could. What would be the result of such a move? Well, legislators will have to slim down their staffs and their operations, make them more portable. They will be away from Washington a lot, of course, but they will also be away from interference and social events and political pressure. They will be removed from most of those influence peddling law firms

that so dominate all that happens inside the beltway.

Also, congress will be far removed from the seat of political intrigue, which is Washington. Out in the country, they will soon get a unique perspective on themselves, on their jobs, and the whole bureaucracy. They will see the Federal government for what it is, what it has become, and they will see the "inside" of the beltway from the "outside" of the beltway which will show them what we have become. What a revelation. But best of all, our congress would re-connect with our people.

Today, congressmen feed on one another and they feed on the "insider" system. But that system is bad, often corrupt, and so they are feeding on bad politics. That's why they develop bad habits. But if congress would just convene in the heartland, they will find they "eat" better and sleep better and see far more clearly. Like coming off drugs, they will see a whole new world away from the Washington habit. A "habit" which is money-dealing, campaign contributing, self-serving, America-destroying, insidious and destructive. We could leave all of that behind. And in time, the fresh air of clean politics would soon clear the heads of those are running our government and everyone would benefit.

Then, out there among the people...the voters...and away from all the so-called "beautiful people", maybe America could return to old fashioned virtues in government, honesty, integrity, committment and service.

Why not?

Try it out and check out the results. Next session, let Congress convene in ATLANTA, GEORGIA. Cut the staffs, bring as little as you need for the session. Trust me, the folks in Georgia will find the room you need for a few months. After this session, we move along. Next time...PHOENIX, ARIZONA. Let's see the hot shot crooks from Washington set up in Phoenix. Then in short order, we take our government to SEATTLE, then BOSTON or PHILADELPHIA, then down to HOUSTON. Think about it. Each sessions in a different part of America. What with modern communication it would be a snap. And it would re-vitalize America. Watch and see. Crowds would appear as if by magic at every session. They would come because they care about their country and now, they have a chance to participate. Everybody gets into the game...and that will change the game dramatically. You can bet on it. Oh well...

Thanks anyway,

Feasterville, Pa 19053