

January 31, 1992

Brian Lamb

C-Span

400 N. Capitol St. N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001

Brian,

I just finished watching this morning's journalist round table. I was appalled that within the hour and a half show, you didn't bring up the Supreme Court's decision limiting the scope of the '65 voting rights act. The cases, *Pike v. Etowah County Commission*, No 90-711, and *Russell County case*, elevated form over substance, process over effect. In the *Etowah County* case, according to the *New York Times*, two newly elected black members of the six-member county commission had challenged a resolution adopted by the four white incumbents that stripped individual commissioners of their traditional authority to allocate the street repair budgets for their own districts. All the street repair money was put in a common fund to be allocated by majority vote. In the *Russell County* case, two newly elected black commissioners challenged the commission's abolition of individual road districts, and the transfer of that authority to an engineer who was appointed by majority vote of the commission.

The fact that the Supreme Court could substantially dilute the power, the effect, the influence of
(over)

merely voters without C-Span taking note of it in its journalist roundtable is frustrating, trustful and an outrage.

I hold you and Charlie Rose of PBS as the highest ideals of moderation/moderators. The two of you are the best in the country. Better than Ted Koppel; all of the 60 minutes journalists; even better than McNeil, Lehrer, Hunter-Gault, and Woodruff; and, naturally far and away better than the hosts of the Sunday morning public affairs shows.

I hope you will discuss these cables soon. My local cable company, Stone Cable, which, by the way, is owned by TCI which owns 25% of the cable franchise nationwide, only broadcasts C-Span I, and only from 3⁰⁰ am to 6³⁰ pm, Mon-Fri, 3⁰⁰ am to 1 pm, Sat and Sun. Therefore, the specific programs on the court are inaccessible to me. I've made many requests to my cable company and TCI for expansion of C-Span I to include longer hours plus C-Span II, but to no avail. As a matter of fact, the present hours of broadcast represent a contraction from 24 hours of broadcasting. I, by the way, am very much in favor of letting the telephone companies compete with cable. Because my local cable company has been so unresponsive to programming requests plus raised monthly charges to a new level of gouging.

Sincerely,

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