

November 5, 1993

[REDACTED]
Richmond, KY 40475
[REDACTED]

Mr. Brian Lamb
C-Span I & II
400 N. Capitol Street
Washington

Dear Mr. Lamb:

One of the major reasons for the problems we have in the electoral process in this Democracy is the way the media handles election campaigns and election news--these actions affect quality of gov't.

Case in point: Road to the White House - 1996 as a title for a 1993 program--2 years earlier than appropriate or advisable. After an election, there SHOULD BE a period of three years when everyone forgets political ambitions and pulls together to do what is best for the country. I am old enough to remember when this was true.

Not so today! The day after election, the media--and therefore, the politicians start talking about the next election--four years in the future. And, the talk leads to partisan rivalry, lack of cooperation between politicians and parties--everyone vying for the best political position for the next election--3-4 years hence.

I'm surprised that C-Span has now joined this bit of nonsense with the Road to the White House - 1996 title for their show(s). Call it Politics - 1993 (or some such title), which is more appropriate.

Instead of promoting partisan rivalry, the media SHOULD be putting subtle pressure on politicians to forget politics for a few years and do what is needed to solve our many social/economic/foreign affairs problems. President Clinton is working on problems--most other officeholders are working on politics (Sen. Dole, for example)

Russian News: It is disconcerting to have a man doing the news and a woman's voice translating it--and vice versa. Why do you do this?

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

P.S. While I'm giving you a hard time(smile!), might as well include a few other things!

1. The calls you get from viewers are usually the most interesting part of any show--yours or the other "talk" shows. Yet, you--and many other talk show hosts--give short shrift to callers--rushing them, cutting them off before they are finished, ignoring their questions--going on to something else before addressing what they called about, not keeping them on the line for follow-up questions, failing to pick up on important points or obvious follow-up questions on the callers' subject.

When a person tries for months--often years--to get a call through, he/she deserves better treatment than he/she often gets on C-Span(and other shows).

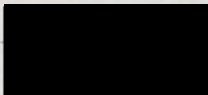
C-Span must be careful not to succumb to "Beltway Gap"--dishing up nothing more than the current bull-shit(sorry, there's no other appropriate word!) everyone is spinning out around and inside the Beltway in Washington!

We, the people, often know a helluva lot more about what is needed in this country than anyone in Washington! That should be obvious when you look at what Washington bureaucrats have done to us in the last 30 years!

If you pay attention, you will find many gems of wisdom and common sense--mixed in with a substantial amount of non-relevant stuff--when your callers are allowed sufficient time to say what's on their mind when they call.

It often appears that TV stations--including C-Span, on occasion--are more interested in form than substance, in symbolic rather than substantive actions, in harmful rather than helpful(workable)solutions to our mounting national problems.

It is true that those of us out here in the boondocks aren't as polished and erudite as the educated fools often given too much time in the media. But, we have things to say that are important to the people as a whole--not just the usual Washington BS!



That's the bad news--here's the good news!

C-Span, thanks to you, is "head and shoulders" above anything else on the boob-tube! But, it can be better. CMF

PPS: How many times recently have you pointed out that President Clinton majored in International Relations at Geo Wash University? And that _____ number of former Presidents also did not have any active, wartime, in the trenches military service(its probably about half and half--those who did and did not)? You can't take sides, but you do have an obligation to present the full picture when people begin "president-bashing"--a favorite American pasttime these days--especially on TV!



Opinions

Special interests own government

By [REDACTED]

"Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one." — *Common Sense*, January 1776.

"When any form of government becomes destructive, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it." — *Declaration of Independence*, July 4, 1776.

The hallmark of a democracy is representative government; the right of the governed to elect those who govern. An equally important right (and responsibility) of the governed is the right to remove from office those who are unfit to govern.

Recently, in Russia, removal of those considered unfit to govern was accomplished by force of arms. Fortunately, in America, we have a less violent option available to us. Given the courage and common sense to do so, we can peacefully remove from office those who are unfit to govern by exercising our right to vote.

Beginning almost 30 years ago, successive presidents and congresses have been busily engaged in the betrayal of our democracy to the special interests, monied interests and the military-industrial complex, almost exactly as predicted by President Eisenhower in a late 1950s speech. This gradual decay of the very meaning of self-government has resulted in a government not "of the people, for the people, by the people" — but instead a government for sale.

This 30-year period of decay culminated in the \$3 trillion of additional national debt incurred by Presidents Reagan and Bush, aided and abetted by House and Senate members, many of whom were Democrats. Working together, they frittered away our birthright and that of our children and grandchildren.

Where did the \$3 trillion go? Not to the people as a whole. Social problems are worse now than before; we have no money left; interest payments are astronomical; the rich got richer; the poor, poorer.

It is not surprising that the government is held in such low esteem by the governed. In 1992, the voters elected a new president, 14 new senators, 116 new representatives. Over 65 percent voted for a change. Yet, despite this clear mandate, almost nothing has changed,

Guest Column

especially in the House and Senate, where members continue to "talk spending cuts" while "voting for more spending." (Recommended reading: Sen. Bumper's Oct. 15, 1993 speech during debate on an amendment to reduce the intelligence budget. Call (202) 224-4843 for a copy of his speech.)

"The politician thinks only of the next election; the statesman thinks of the next generation." We do have a few statesmen in Washington. But most of the good legislation they present is "bottled up" in one of the 256 committees and subcommittees and never brought up for a vote. Congressmen cosponsor good legislation, then will not sign discharge petitions to bring it to the floor for a vote. A good TV sitcom could be made from excerpts of the daily House and Senate "comedy of errors" broadcast by C-Span! Nowhere is so little accomplished by so many in so much time at so much expense to the taxpayers!

Fewer than 50 percent of the eligible voters voted in the 1992 election. If, like most other Americans, you are "sick and tired" of what goes on in Washington, there is one sure way to stop it. Register and vote out of office those who are unfit to govern. Not voting is a vote for continuation of the status quo. Does your vote make a difference? Definitely! Many political races are won or lost by less than one vote per precinct. In 1960, John Kennedy defeated Richard Nixon by less than one vote per precinct, nationwide!

Political apathy has gotten us into trouble; political activism will get us out. It's time for all Americans to say, *Enough is enough* and to replace the old guard in Washington with a few hundred more new faces. It is our right ... and our responsibility.

[REDACTED] is the pen-name of a Richmond resident who is compiling a series of brief essays in which he attempts to address modern issues in the style of Thomas Paine, author of the Revolutionary War-era "Common Sense" pamphlets. His essays will be published periodically in the Register.)



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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

