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Bakersfield, CA 93306
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August 27, 1993

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

Dear Mr. Lamb,

After watching the Buchanan/Hitchens' show the other day, I had to put in my two cents. I was amazed at the vehemence with which you were vilified by the callers, the accusations of bias.

I have been watching C-SPAN since June of '91 and have been continually (and pleasantly) surprised by the balanced coverage, the impartiality shown. I have been trying all this time to figure out your political leanings and have yet to find a clue in anything you say or any show you provide.

I enjoyed "The Oxford Connection," and the double "Booknotes" interview with Richard Nixon. I have never cared for the man, especially when he was president, but I was fascinated by the interview and impressed by his astute understanding of world affairs. He provided much food for thought.

I try to catch "Booknotes" weekly, and I'm always impressed with your interviewing techniques. You consistently ask tough, penetrating questions of all your guests regardless of their political stance, yet do so without rancor. You were as gracious to Al Gore as you were to Richard Nixon or the authors of Thurgood Marshall. I believe you go out of your way to give everyone a fair hearing and I appreciate that. I find an interviewer with an agenda objectionable, whether that agenda is to the left or the right. I'm sure you must have opinions, but I have never been able to discern them. However, I have noticed you grimace when callers are particularly hateful or mean-spirited, but you even let them have their say.

The Buchanan/Hitchens' show was the first time I've ever seen a crack in your composure; you seemed genuinely distressed that Clinton was being attacked from both directions at the same time. I thought the situation was rather humorous since it was obviously unintentional, but I wouldn't have wanted to be in your

shoes!

I must admit I was glad to hear folks defending Clinton because the majority of C-Span callers seem to lean the other direction. I just wish people would give the president a chance. This country is becoming so polarized it's frightening. In all my years I have never seen such a concerted effort to bring down a presidency. Robert Dole and many others in the Republican party, as well as Perot and his followers are so engaged in partisan politics that they have forgotten, or chosen to ignore, their primary function -- governance. I realize that in the real world politics tends to take precedence over policy, but the ratio of politics to policy seems to be increasing.

As you have probably deduced from my word choice, "fair," "impartial," "balance," "justice," "tolerance,"-- these are concepts that are extremely important to me. I believe C-Span, under your leadership, endeavors to embody them. I just wanted you to know that your efforts are appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,



P.S. I did finally find a clue to your political leanings in the book The Final Days by Woodward and Bernstein (I'm a decade and a half late in reading it). I was surprised, but only because you appear to be apolitical.



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