

Mar. 30, 1992

Dear Mr. Lamb:

Let me first utter an unreserved thank you for C-SPAN. I am a political junkie, and your programming and event coverage is simply superb.

I began my political career while still an American (through a bizzare set of circumstances, I ended up a Canadian in 1987, and have essentially immigrated back to the area of my birth, but that story, amusing as it may seem, is too long for now), as a fifteen year old student working for Bobby Kennedy in Missouri. I went on to volunteer for Hubert Humphrey, then later served on staff in Jimmy Carter's Missouri campaign. Ted Kennedy in 1980, again locally.

After this, it was Pierre Trudeau and John Turner in Canada. I understand you worked for Richard Nixon. Frankly, this is not my favourite section of your resume. Seriously, though, I have many many friends of all political persuasions, and about the only political animal I dislike is one intolerant of honourable opponents. I think the Goldwater/JFK friendship cum rivalry is paradigmatic.

That background aside, let me return to C-SPAN. Had I more managable resources, I'd request an interview for a job there, so much do I enjoy and support what you do. I had an amateur brush with radio in 1973, enough to know I am comfortable on the air, and to know how much goes into your call in programs.

I am neither fatuous nor tendentious, so please take this as my honest feeling. You are absolutely splendid as a call-in host. Your erudition is evident, but never stultifying. Your manners are simply wonderful--it is no mean feat to deal with, shall we say, fringe callers. I have never heard a host with such aplomb or patience in dealing with zealots and uncomfortable callers. At the same time, the small grin and twinkle in your eye is never lost on your more subtle viewers, yet never infringes on the content, context, or seriousness of the subject.

I do wish your range of journalistic guests was a bit wider, or say more often wider. And one could hope for an 800 number (no, I am not suggesting you run for office), though I understand both the fiscal aspects making this difficult, and the use of toll charges as somewhat of a filter. Though that filter also serves to remove a segment of articulate but less well-off folk, which I am sure you regret as much, dare I guess more, than I.

I turly wish, and have locally expressed said wish, that my cable company, Continental, carried C-SPAN II.

Finally, though it is probably your most repeated compliment, I must commend your Booknotes program, and again your job on it, as some of the finest educational and entertaining television ever.

Thank you, Mr. Lamb. My understanding is that C-SPAN is much a product of your creativity and drive. I cannot think of a better service to the public, and it is my fervent hope you enjoy it always. To the extent appreciation facilitates said enjoyment, you've mine.

Thank you.

Belleville, IL 62221-3261

SEP 1992 000

[Redacted]
Belleville, IL 62221-3261



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

PERSONAL