

March 4, 1997

Mr. Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

My mother, [REDACTED] lives in a Leisure Village community of 2134 homes in Camarillo, California. They have their own internal cable television system of 15 channels and many years ago my mother, with several other residents raised all the money necessary to bring C-SPAN 2 into their cable TV system. (They already had C-SPAN 1)

Recently, GTE approached the Village administration, offering to replace the 25 year old cable system with a GTE system. Among the 64 channels that GTE would offer, however, was only C-SPAN 1. Many of the villagers, impressed by the newer technologies, were ready to accept this change.

My mother, at 87 years, mounted a forceful demand to save C-SPAN 2. I enclose a copy of her statement at an open meeting and her letter. It is to let you know the caliber and commitment among your viewers.

I, personally, also very much value your "book" segments and the repeat of much of your coverage of speeches and other programs. As someone who worked 20+ years as a staff director for the California State Senate and also as an instructor in various colleges, I know what a valuable contribution you and your excellent enterprise are making to our nation and its democracy. I only wish I could join you in your contribution.

Thank you, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Camarillo, CA. 93012

O. Cable

March 4, 1997

Mr. Elmer Eymann
Chair, Leisure Village TADS Sub-Committee
16146 Village 16
Leisure Village, CA.

Dear Mr. Eymann:

Thank you for your phone call this morning, telling my son [REDACTED] about your early morning phone call to GTE, explaining to them our insistence upon a guarantee that both C-SPAN 1 and 2 be in any contact for cable television for Leisure Village. I, and those of us who do rely on those channels and who spend much time at home because of health or joint problems, do very much appreciate your efforts on our behalf.

I have lived in Leisure Village since 1979 and as I have become less able to attend Leisure Village classes and activities, the stimulation of such television programs like C-Span 1 and 2 have become increasingly important to me and to many of my friends.

I certainly would prefer the latest technology and numerous channels for our television system, but NEVER at the expense of my autonomy in deciding what channels I may or may not have available to view, especially if the channels are completely managed by a large monopolistic corporation that is looking for its own interests first and foremost.

I fear the coming of the "Dumbling of American", a showing of sports, entertainment, etc. with no opportunity to see for ourselves the activities of our representatives in government, be they local, State or Federal.

Unless C-Span 1 and 2 can be retained and be part of our cable television contract for years to come, I, for one, must strongly object to such a change in our cable television system.

Again, my thanks to you for your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TOWN HALL MEETING ON TV CABLE SYSTEM
MARCH 3, 1997

I HAVE BEEN ILL AND HOSPITALIZED AND HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ATTEND MEETINGS TO EXPRESS MY THOUGHTS AND CONCERNS AS TO THE EFFECT OF DIFFERENT POLICIES HERE IN LEISURE VILLAGE..

WILL LEISURE VILLAGE CHANNEL 23 - WHICH IS C-SPAN 2, THE BROADCAST FROM THE UNITED STATE SENATE - BE DROPPED IN ANY CHANGES MADE IN A NEW CABLE SYSTEM?

THE INSERT THAT CAME WITH THE RECENT ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE VOICE INDICATES THAT THE ONLY CHANNEL TO BE DROPPED BY GTE CABLE WOULD BE AMC. YET IT APPEARS THAT THEY ARE NOT PLANNING TO PROVIDE C-SPAN 2. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE IT, E.G. IT WILL BE DROPPED.

IF THIS HAPPENS, I, AND MANY OTHERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT OUR REPRESENTATIVES DO IN WASHINGTON, WILL BE DEPRIVED OF SEEING FIRST HAND THE CALIBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE EFFECTING OUR EVERYDAY LIVES FROM WASHINGTON DC

C-SPAN 11 IS **IRREPLACEABLE**; IT IS THE ONLY CHANNEL, FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE, TODAY, I COULD WATCH THE DEBATE IN THE UNITED STATE SENATE ON THE 'BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT'.

PLEASE DO NOT DELETE THIS IMPORTANT STATION. C-SPAN 1 AND C-SPAN 2 ARE THE ONLY CHANNELS THAT ALLOW US TO WITNESS WITH OUR OWN EYES, AND EARS, THE CALIBER OF REPRESENTATION, WITHOUT THE PROPAGANDA OF MUCH OF THE MEDIA, TO INFLUENCE US.

MY LEGS MAY BE FRAIL, BUT MY MIND IS STILL STRONG ENOUGH TO WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT.

I END BY NOTING THAT MANY YEARS AGO, MANY OF US, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LATE HARRY BECKER, RAISED THE MONEY NECESSARY TO OBTAIN C-SPAN 2. MANY HOUSEHOLDS CONTRIBUTED TO BRING C-SPAN 2 INTO THE VILLAGE. IT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE LOSS TO US TO NOW LOSE THAT CHANNEL. THANK YOU.