

South Windsor, Ct 06074

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CSPAN
400 North Capital Street N.W.
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Washington, DC 20001

Gentlemen:

Here is a program suggestion for you. I would like to see a program in which two people, proponents of opposing sides of an issue strive to agree on as many of the specific facts of the issue as possible; not on the conclusions to be drawn from those facts, just the facts themselves.

An example, if you please: the minimum wage.

1. How many people are now working for \$4.25 per hour? (In my area, I believe starting salaries at fast food restaurants are about \$6.00 per hour.)
2. Split by age group?
3. How many such workers have dependents? How many are dependents?
4. How long do workers stay at that wage level? How soon do they get a raise?
5. How many workers get food stamps and other financial assistance to supplement that minimum wage?
6. For how many of these workers is this a second job?
7. Etcetera

With facts agreed upon by both sides of an issue, demagoguery can be identified, and the issue can be discussed and considered more rationally and objectively by those of us who watch CSPAN and rely on it. Item 1. above might counter the folks who say that raising the minimum wage will cost jobs. Item 3. above might counter the folks who talk about minimum wage workers being unable to support themselves and their families.

With the emphasis on spending cuts this year, the subjects for such a program seem endless:

Food stamps: Who qualifies, how many people get them, how much do they get each week, what else do they get?

Agricultural subsidies: How many farmers get money? Do corporate farms get money? How many, how much? How much does Archer, Daniels, Midland get? How much does Tyson Foods get?

College loan assistance: How many get loans, how much, how many of the recipients are in families below the poverty level? What is the default rate?

The Service Corps: How many workers? How much salary? What are they doing that is not duplicating work being done by volunteers in the private sector?

The deficit: (Just which are the three years the President cut the deficit on? 93, 94, 95? If so, 93 was one third over when he came into office, and 95 isn't over yet. I have yet to hear anybody say which three years he means.), How much is the deficit being cut by spending cuts and how much by increases in tax revenue?

I think the lack of factual information among the general public is evident from the misunderstandings and misinformation expressed daily by your callers. Almanacs are great, but they are dated, and usually too general. I would greatly enjoy such a program.

Thank you for your consideration, and of course, THANK YOU FOR CSPAN!

Very truly yours,



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