



APR 25 ANSD

1587-90
MAY 23 ANSD

C-Span

April 21, 1990

400 N. Capitol St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

re: PAC Contributions

Dear C-Span,

Since my retirement I watch C-Span a lot and am particularly interested in the Committee and sub-Committee hearings. I get the feeling that the people on both sides of the table are "role playing" almost as if they were acting in a stage play.

When watching a hearing I pay particular attention to the Congressional questioners trying to determine if a question is:

- (1) a straightforward honest attempt to obtain useful information. or
- (2) expressing a political position in the hope that his (or her) re-election chances will be improved - or
- (3) expressing a political opinion trying to put-down the other political Party. or
- (4) displaying some other motive not apparent to me at the moment.

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Last week I was watching a hearing about Cable TV. At the visitor's table were one or more people representing one of three adversarial commercial interests:

- (1) Cable TV
- (2) Satellites
- (3) Bell Telephone

While I was watching the Congressmen and trying to decide for myself where they stood on the issue I was suddenly struck by an ugly thought that I had ^{not} previously considered. The ugly thought was "PAC CONTRIBUTIONS". How much of the thrust of a Congressional question is being dictated by contributions? Good question?

My purpose in writing is to recommend and request that C-Span show its viewers whether or not PAC contributions could be a factor in the questioning. As an example -- if a Congressional questioner is asking questions of the Bell Telephone representative please show in a box below the Congressional name the amount of money, if

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any, that the Bell PAC contributed to that questioner. Also show contributions from the others at the table.

I believe that this kind of sunshine would be very interesting and informative to your viewers and would tend to neutralize the evil influence of PACs. Please try to do this. TRY HARD. TRY REAL HARD.

Keep up the good work.

yours,

[Redacted signature]

P.S. This information would be very pertinent when the S+L and HUD Hearings resume.

[Redacted signature]