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April 21, 1984

C-Span
Suite 155
400 North Capitol St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Sir or Madam:

I watch C-Span because it is the best communication vehicle to the national political scene. Its extended coverage of national leadership thinking on important issues, combined with a comprehensiveness exceeding that of the print media, make C-Span an indispensable part of my continuing education in national and world affairs.

I discovered C-Span when I moved to Fostoria, Ohio fifteen months ago. Here, I found cable TV to be required for the best picture quality. In obtaining the local cable service, I received C-Span in the package. C-Span has since become my favorite TV viewing.

Watching Congress on C-Span, I see many bright, fervent, and articulate legislators working diligently for what they

perceive to be the national good. I also find congressional hearings and conferences, distinguished by the participation of experts from academia and the think tanks, to be so thought-provoking that I feel personal involvement from my distant armchair.

Recent C-Span presentations have caused me to reflect frequently on the following issues:

1. The CIA's covert actions against Nicaragua:

Will covert failures against the Sandinistas, and the persistence of the Salvadoran rebels, lead inevitably to the introduction of substantial American combat forces into Central America? Will the criticism of friendly governments temper American options?

2. Our foreign policy failure in Lebanon.

Did Congress compromise the President's Lebanon program with unending opposition, or was he fully responsible for inadequate planning, based reportedly on poor intelligence? What are the prospects now for a politically viable and morally correct resolution of the entire Mideast conflict?

3. Our China policy, which was skillfully explored in a conference chaired by Representative Stephen Solarz of New York.

How should we react to a Soviet-China war? Should

China be aided with both materiel and manpower? Would the Soviets likely "nuke" the Peoples Republic without simultaneously launching a pre-emptive first strike at the U.S.A.? Every conceivable scenario has apparently been given thorough consideration by think tank specialists.

4. The War Powers Act.

What are the emergency powers of the President in the absence of a declaration of war with respect to the use of troops? Were there good legal grounds for invading Grenada? Ms. Blanche Cook, John Jay College historian and conferee in this discussion, criticized America's historically frequent use of gunboat diplomacy.

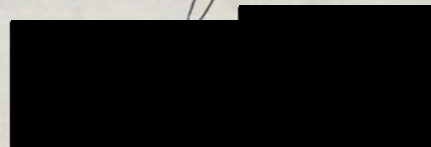
5. President Reagan's "Star Wars" defense proposal of last year.

If viable, would American missile-destroying lasers in outer space enhance our security or exacerbate the arms race with the Soviet Union? Could either side permit unilateral deployment of this "ultimate weapon" by the other?

All of the above issues deal potentially with human survival - the most primal instinct of man. C-Span exposed me to at least two perspectives on

each of these weighty matters. But, C-Span's programming can be entertaining as well as enlightening. When Jim Wright of Texas and Henry Hyde of Illinois square off on any issue, the debate is elevated to high oratorical art.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.



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