

DEC. 3, 1993


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DEAR C-SPAN PRODUCERS,

I AM SENDING THIS COMMUNICATION TO YOU WITH A MIXTURE OF FRUSTRATION AND CONCERN. I USED TO LOOK FORWARD TO ALL THE CALL-IN SHOWS, ESPECIALLY "THE JOURNALISTS' ROUNDTABLE". LATELY, HOWEVER, THE CALLS SEEM TO BE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ONE-SIDED, -- A NEGATIVE MONOLOGUE OF CONSERVATISM. HO-HUM!..I AM SICK AND TIRED OF THIS "JOHNNY-ONE-NOTE" STREAM OF CALL-INS, AND I THINK IT BEGS YOUR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF HOW YOU HANDLE THESE CALLS. IN MY TWO YEARS OF WATCHING C-SPAN, I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GET THROUGH WITH MY MORE MODERATE OPINIONS -- AND I, TOO, HAVE A REDIAL BUTTON ON MY PHONE!...

SO HOW COME ALL THESE ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE TYPES KEEP GETTING ON THE AIR, SHUTTING OUT THE CENTRIST MODERATES, AND THE LIBERALS?... I DARESAY THAT C-SPAN IS GETTING SUCKERED IN BY SOME CONSERVATIVE CALL-IN TRICKERY, AS CRAZY AS THAT SOUNDS!.. I FEEL FAIRLY DISGUSTED THAT THE BEST CHANNEL ON TV IS GETTING POLLUTED BY SOMETHING THAT SEEMS OUT OF CONTROL. PRETTY SOON, YOU WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO GET THE BRAVEST OF SOULS TO COME ON YOUR CALL-IN PROGRAMS, FOR IT HAS BECOME A WEIRD ANALOGUE OF "CROSSFIRE", OR SOME SUCH PUBLIC PERFORMANCE OF HOSTILITY. (THE SMILING JOURNALISTS THIS MORNING SEEMED TO CONFIRM MY PERCEPTIONS ON THIS...)

I, FOR ONE, DO NOT WANT TO WAKE UP EVERY MORNING TO HEAR ALL THIS NATTERING, WHINING AND COMPLAINING, ALONG LIMBAUGH PARTY-LINES. IF I WANTED TO HEAR LIMBAUGH --WHICH I DON'T-- THEN I WOULD TUNE HIM IN.

I DO ENJOY C-SPAN, YET I FEEL THAT THE CALL-INS ARE SKEWED, AND NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL POPULATION. AFTER ALL, CLINTON DID GET ELECTED, DIDN'T HE? AND THE CONGRESS IS PREDOMINANTLY DEMOCRATIC, IS IT NOT?...WHY LET THE ULTRA-

RIGHT-WINGERS TAKE C-SPAN, (AND ME), HOSTAGE TO THEIR NARROW POINTS-OF-VIEW?...

SO, MIGHT I SUGGEST, JUST AS ONE CALLER DID THIS MORNING, THAT YOU INTRODUCE SOME "QUALITY CONTROL" OR FAIRNESS, TO YOUR CALL-IN POLICY. HAVE ONE LINE FOR LIBERALS, AND ONE FOR CONSERVATIVES, AND LET EVERYONE DECLARE WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM, BEFORE THEY MAKE THEIR COMMENTS. PERSONALLY, I STAND ON THE LEFT OR THE RIGHT BY VIRTUE OF THE MERITS OF THE ISSUES, NOT SOME OVERWHELMING IDEALOGY. GENERALLY, I TEND TO BE MODERATELY LIBERAL, YET I SUPPORT NAFTA, BECAUSE I HAPPEN TO THINK THAT A GLOBAL ECONOMY IS INEVITABLE.

I ESCHEW AND ABHOR EXTREMISM ON BOTH SIDES OF THE SPECTRUM, AND I ESPECIALLY DISDAIN FOOLS WHO MINDLESSLY SPOUT SOME IDEALOGY JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE TOLD THEM TO THINK THAT WAY!... FOR EXAMPLE, LIMBAUGH, ACCORDING TO TIME MAGAZINE, CALLS HIS AUDIENCE "DITTO-HEADS" -- IT'S A SAD INDICATION OF A BADLY-EDUCATED POPULACE THAT THE "DITTO-HEADS" DO NOT EVEN KNOW THEY'RE BEING INSULTED BY THEIR MAIN GURU... WHAT A BITTER JOKE!... AT ANY RATE, C-SPAN, PLEASE DEVISE SOME STRATEGY WHEREBY THERE IS MORE ACCESS, AND MORE FAIRNESS TO YOUR CALL-IN SHOWS. I AM SO SICK AND TIRED OF THE SAME IGNORANT JERKS CALLING IN DAY-AFTER-DAY, WHILE A FEW --VERY FEW, IT SEEMS -- WAIT FOR YEARS AND YEARS TO HAVE THEIR POINTS-OF-VIEW HEARD. WHILE I DO THINK THAT YOU BELIEVE THE CALLS ARE RANDOM, I DO NOT --I THINK THERE MAY BE SOME TELEPHONE-TRICKERY GOING ON. I SIMPLY CANNOT BELIEVE THAT 90% OF THE COUNTRY HAS ALL OF A SUDDEN GONE ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE!...

I FAX THIS TO ALL OF YOU AT C-SPAN, SINCE THIS SEEMS TO BE MY ONLY ACCESS. STILL, I CONGRATULATE YOU -- ALL OF YOU DO A WONDERFUL JOB. I REALIZE IT MUST BE HARD TO KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE AT TIMES, YET ALL OF YOU MANAGE!.. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, BUT PLEASE, PLEASE, TRY TO FIX THIS CALL-IN MESS!.. THANKS.

YOURS VERY TRULY,

