

6/25/93

*copy*

MR. MARLIN BLIZINSKY  
K.C. CABLE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE  
516 3RD AVENUE ROOM #E-224  
SEATTLE, WA. 98104

DEAR MR. BLIZINSKY:

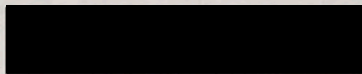
I HAVE BEEN READING ABOUT THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH TELE-COMMUNICATIONS INC. AND AM INTERESTED TO FIND THAT SOME OF THOSE TAKING PART IN THE DEBATE (JEFF MICHKA, STEVE HODAS, B. PARKER LINDNER) ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL CONTROL CABLE COMPANIES MAY HAVE OVER ACCESS TO INFORMATION VIA THE FIBER OPTIC NETWORK.

UNFORTUNATELY THAT CONTROL IS ALREADY BEING EXERCISED BY VIACOM . VIACOM HAS CUT C-SPAN OUT OF PRIME TIME . I AM SENDING YOU A COPY OF MY LETTER OF JUNE 8 TO ERIC KRONEN OF VIACOM PROTESTING THIS ACTION. C-SPAN IS A UNIQUE AND EXTREMELY IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL SOURCE . I TRUST THAT YOU AND OTHERS WILL TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT DURING THE DEBATE WITH TCI .

I ALSO CALL ON YOU TO DO WHAT YOU CAN TO URGE VIACOM TO PUT C-SPAN BACK ON THE AIR FULL TIME.

SINCERELY,

*copy*

  
BELLEVUE, WA. 98006

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*Streamcopy : Sales*

June 28, 1993

MR. LON HURD  
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANTS  
502 E. MAIN  
AUBURN, WA. 98002

DEAR MR. HURD:

I AM WRITING YOU TO ENTER A COMPLAINT ABOUT A SERIOUS BREACH OF PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY BY VIACOM CABLEVISION.

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO VIACOM TOOK C-SPAN OFF THE AIR DURING PRIME TIME HOURS. I WROTE TO THEM 6/8/93 (COPY ENCLOSED) POINTING OUT TO THEM THE IMPORT OF C-SPAN AS A RARE SOURCE OF INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO GOVERNMENT. I BELIEVE C-SPAN IS SO IMPORTANT THAT IT NOT GO OFF THE AIR EVEN DURING LOW VIEWING HOURS SO THAT PEOPLE MAY HAVE ACCESS NO MATTER WHAT THEIR VIEWING CONSTRAINTS MIGHT BE.



IT IS MOST DISTURBING TO FIND THAT A COMPANY FRANCHISED TO USE PUBLIC AIR WAVES IS ABLE TO CHOK OFF THE ONLY CONDUIT PEOPLE HAVE FOR LEARNING ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, DEBATE AND OTHER POLITICAL PROCEEDINGS WHILE THEY ARE IN PROGRESS AND UNFILTERED.

I AM SENDING YOU A COPY OF VIACOM'S JUNE 22 ANSWER TO ME. THEY ARE LAYING THE BLAME FOR THEIR ACTION DIRECTLY UPON THE 1992 CABLE ACT AND THE FCC. I TRUST YOU DO NOT BUY THAT.

I WOULD URGE YOU TO RECONSIDER VIACOM'S LICENSE. I DO NOT BELIEVE THEY WERE GRANTED THAT LICENSE TO ACT EITHER SOLELY IN THE INTEREST OF THE VIACOM COMPANY'S PROFITS OR POLITICS.

PLEASE ADVISE ME WHEN THE VIACOM LICENSE IS UP FOR RENEWAL AND WHETHER DATES HAVE BEEN SET FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

SINCERELY,

  
BELLEVUE, WA. 98006  


CC: C-SPAN  
BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL  
MAX CLARK (BELL. PUBLIC WORKS)  
B. PARKER LINDNER  
STEVE HODAS  
JEFF MICHKA  
MIKE SIEGAL (KVI)  
TED KENNEDY (EASTSIDEWEEK)

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ERIC KRONEN,  
 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
 VIACOM CABLEVISION  
 900 132ND ST S.W.  
 EVERETT, WN 98204

DEAR MR. KRONEN:

JUNE 8, 1993



THIS IS TO ENTER MY VIGOROUS PROTEST UPON YOUR DECISION TO ELIMINATE C-SPAN FROM EVENING VIEWING. C-SPAN HAS BEEN ONE OF THE PRIME EDUCATIONAL SOURCES FOR POLITICAL AND CURRENT EVENTS. I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO EVEN TAMPER WITH THE FREE 24-HOUR VIEWING OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT STATION. ESPECIALLY AT A TIME WHEN POLITICAL EDUCATION HAS BECOME A NATIONAL THEME.

C-SPAN AS A PURVEYOR OF GOVERNMENT IN ACTION IS WHAT SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS THE CONCORD COALITION, UNITED WE STAND AMERICA AND OTHERS ARE ALL ABOUT. AT A TIME WHEN CONGRESSWOMAN JENNIFER DUNN OF THE 8TH DISTRICT, IN WHICH YOUR ORGANIZATION OPERATES, IS ATTEMPTING TO PASS A "SUNSHINE LAW" TO ALLOW C-SPAN EVEN GREATER COVERAGE OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS YOU HAVE JUDGED TO NARROW THE FREEDOM OF PEOPLE TO VIEW THESE PROCEEDINGS.

MR. KRONEN, I VENTURE TO GUESS THAT YOUR DECISION, MADE FOR WHATEVER REASON, IS GOING TO BE EXTREMELY UNPOPULAR WITH THE PUBLIC YOU SERVE. I MUST TELL YOU THAT, BASED UPON REACTION I SEE AT THE VARIOUS MEETINGS I ATTEND, MY GUESS IS AN EDUCATED ONE. I TRUST YOU WILL RECONSIDER AND PUT C-SPAN BACK ON FULL TIME.

CC: JENNIFER DUNN, REP. OF 8TH DISTRICT  
 CHRIS LINDBERG, CONCORD COALITION, WN. STATE  
 MIKE SIEGAL, RADIO STN. KVI  
 DAVE MORGAN, UWSA, WN. STATE CHAIRMAN  
 BRUCE LAING, K.C. COUNCIL, 6TH DISTRICT  
 TIM HILL, K.C. EXECUTIVE  
 JOHN CARLSON, EDITORIAL PAGE, SEATTLE TIMES  
 C-SPAN, WASH. D.C.

SINCERELY,

  
 BELLEVUE, WA. 98006  


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# VIACOM CABLE

More of What You're Looking For.

June 22, 1993

[REDACTED]  
Bellevue, WA 98006

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter I received outlining your concerns about the reduction in the hours we will be carrying C-SPAN.

The 1992 Cable Act contains a provision known as "must carry," which requires us to reserve up to one-third of our channel capacity for commercial stations plus capacity for at least three non-commercial (PBS) stations that meet the FCC's requirements for signal strength in our geographic region. These must carry rules have been declared unconstitutional twice before, but are being reimposed as part of the new legislation. The first phase of implementation must be in place by June 2, 1993 and in order to comply with the federal law, Viacom has changed its programming.

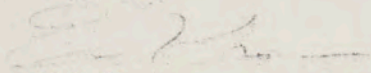
Others have also written in suggesting alternative programming that could be eliminated to make room for those channels required under the FCC's "must carry" rules. Unfortunately, no two customers agree on what that alternative programming should be.

This is not a change Viacom took lightly nor is it one we would make, if it were not to comply with federal law. The FCC mandated that KBTC be carried full-time; they did not say what it should replace. Viacom made that decision based upon customer preference surveys, technical considerations, contractual obligations, and federal and local regulations.

Other provisions of the Cable Act apply to many aspects of our business. Each has a different deadline. Our goal is to upgrade our service and comply with the new regulations as quickly as we can, with as little disruption as possible. Thus, we hope that dropping existing programming in favor of "must carry" transmissions may be only a temporary measure.

Thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

  
Eric Kronen  
Sr. Vice President/Regional Manager

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CSPN.ltr

900 - 132nd Street, S.W. • Everett, WA 98204 • Telephone 206 745-8400

Viacom is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages business with Minority and Female-Owned Businesses.

[REDACTED]  
BELLEVUE WA 98006

C-SPAN  
400 N. CAPITOL ST. N.W.  
SUITE #650  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

