

April 25, 1984

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C-SPAN
Suite 155
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Washington, D.C. 20001

I WATCH C-SPAN, BECAUSE ...

I watch C-SPAN, because C-SPAN provides me with a front row seat in the audience of viewers observing history in making. Those who take advantage of educational-informational benefits offered by the uniqueness of C-SPAN TV programming actually become themselves a part of history's transition team.

By presenting "as is" the proceedings of the U.S. Congress and its Committees, C-SPAN provides a priceless service to the nation. This brings a part of government activities into living rooms of viewers.

The call-in programs give C-SPAN viewers an opportunity to pick the brains of invited guest-experts and to judge for themselves on the presence or absence of eventual bias or false premises on which conclusions are being based. I appreciate C-SPAN's call-in programs, because moderators do not try to prove a point, but just attempt to solicit opinions, suggestions and comments from guests and callers. Actually, C-SPAN is developing into an electronic town meeting of the nation.

I lived twice under communism and once under naziism, which, among other things, meant a rude exposure to managed news. That makes me particularly appreciative of the possibility to see and hear events, ideas, comments and statements first hand, without them being filtered through an ideological prism or colored by a personal bias. On this account the C-SPAN offers the best buy on the electronic communications market.

Panel discussions, seminars, forums, interviews bring into my living room senators, representatives, administration officials, widely read journalists. C-SPAN introduces famous, interesting, controversial personalities and exposes proponents of political philosophy almost accross the entire political spectrum.

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Same is true with comments and questions of callers. One may agree or disagree with guests and callers, one sees them and hears them as they are, with genuine sparkles or blemishes. All this provides one with a deeper understanding of issues and a firmer foundation on which to form more accurate, more intelligent opinion about prevailing mood and ideas in Washington, D.C., in major media and around the country. This increases the general knowledge of the nation.

I believe, general knowledge is the first prerequisite for the free people to stay free. Thomas Jefferson left for us a profound warning: "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects something what never was and never will be."

C-SPAN must be commended for making a great contribution to the political education of American people. I watch C-SPAN for all above mentioned reasons, and I encourage others to do so.

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