

[REDACTED]
Danbury, CT
April 20, 1998 (S.W.)

Dear Mr. Lamb:

The "marathon" program today with two thoughtful, civil journalists was very satisfactory. Continuity and the time to fully express one's thoughts on a variety of topics have a place on the Journal.

This format would not work with less civil participants, two elected politicians or competing "apologists." In the latter two instances, I could write the scripts for each viewpoint. The "party lines" of each side, with constant "The fact of the matter is...", does not encourage mutual understanding, reflection, or enlightenment.

I find not to watch segments with guests who have agendas, spins to spin, or axes to grind. The Journal is best

when guests are intellectually honest and
earn our respect, if not our agreement.

I'd like to see certain topics explored
by people with knowledge of the subject
that is more than peripheral. As an
example, I'd like to see dialog on
immigration, the Immigration and
Naturalization Service, etc., between guests
who do not work for the federal govern-
ment. I'd also like to see election
laws discussed, particularly in
reference to the policies of different
states regarding primaries, the integrity
of the voting process, the verification
of eligible voters, etc.

Today you quickly and briefly talked
about marital relationships that could be
considered conflicts of interest in reporting,
etc., and other types of relationships
one must know to properly evaluate
reporting. I wish you would identify

such relationships in the same way you identify the home towns, work experience and educational backgrounds of your guests.

Dispassionate observers rather than partisans are my preference for participants on the Journal. I am prone to keeping unusual hours just to view an unedited broadcast of an event. I like to see for myself and thank you for the opportunity.

As I write, a thought leaps into my head. With Sen. Patty Murray due tomorrow, it seems to me that the TV news programs in general are inviting endangered Congresspeople to participate, such as Carol Mosely Braun, et al. Why don't you invite the major challengers in the primary and/or general election to these Senators and Representatives?

Sincerely,

