

April 24, 1984

TO: Pamela S. Fleming
Director of Special Projects
C-SPAN - AMERICA'S NETWORK
Suite 155 - 400 N. Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001

Thank you for the information regarding your 5th anniversary celebration.

C-SPAN is America's Bulletin Board.

Given the word limitation, if I were on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would be requesting "unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks."

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Austin, Texas 78731

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Austin, Texas 78731
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WHY I WATCH C-SPAN - AMERICA'S NETWORK

I watch C-Span public affairs network because it is there and I am here. C-SPAN is there at the cutting edge with camera and microphone letting me here at home see and listen to the nitty-gritty of confrontation and cooperation that is part and parcel of democracy.

Coverage by America's Network is nonpartisan, uncluttered and unencumbered by editorial comment and interpretation. Programs are served up in a "come as you are and see the real thing" attitude, thereby revealing Congressional Committee Hearings, and action on the floor of the United States House of Representatives as real and having direct consequences for the everyday life of everybody. I know my own Representative and many other Representatives as well as my Senators and many other Senators.

C-SPAN is playing havoc with the assertion that the federal government is too big and too far removed for direct observation and individual influence. The degree of competency - even honesty - with which governmental officials perform the duties for which they have accepted responsibility is a crucial judgement which citizens can make for themselves given the opportunity to see for themselves.

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WHY I WATCH C-SPAN - AMERICA'S NETWORK

Open line call-in programs give evidence that citizens are watching, listening and thinking; callers are there.

America is on the line!

A federal budget deficit nearing two hundred billion dollars! Questions and answers before Congressional Committees and debate on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, as shown over C-SPAN, enable me to stay in the conversation about such a heavy subject. Crisis in Social Security and Medicare, entitlement programs, overruns and renegotiation of defense contracts, International Monetary Fund, Super Fund for environmental clean-up and political charges surrounding it, Tax Reform Act of 1981 and tax shelters such as sell-lease back and corporate tax credit leasing, bankruptcy of air lines and undertone of union busting, oil company mergers, enforcement and/or deregulation of consumer protection laws, civil rights enforcement, El Salvador, Lebanon, line item veto, and constitutional amendments on right to life, equal rights, prayer in school and a balanced budget are my reasons for watching C-SPAN.

I get an inkling of the political mood and societal pressures from C-SPAN'S coverage of policy forums and debates, Washington Press Club, the presidential campaign trail, and hearing

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WHY I WATCH C-SPAN - AMERICA'S NETWORK

exchanges between "callers" and guest experts. Yes, I know more than I did five years ago!

Not having a niche in the structure of policy making,
at
I can/least observe the who and how. At most, I can use new knowledge in my communications to governmental officials as I await my opportunity to exercise my right to vote.

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