


York, PA 17402
April 26, 1994

C-Span
400 N. Capitol Street, NW
Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Sirs:

I must start this letter by telling you that I have never before thought it necessary to write to any television show, network, broadcaster or news agency on any subject covered by the media. However, your shameful and disgraceful coverage of the events of Tuesday evening, April 26, leading to the funeral of President Richard Nixon compel me to pen this letter.

The program covered by Susan Swain with commentary by Jules Witcover was not only totally inappropriate, it could only be described as disgusting and insulting not only for the Nixon family, but also to the American people and the military, whose honor guard was there to salute the former President.

The irreverence of that program and the comments by Mr. Witcover were absolutely incomprehensible. I can only wonder if Miss Swain had been broadcasting on C-Span during my viewing as a teenager of the JFK funeral, if she and C-Span would have been talking to a tabloid journalist of the escapades JFK had with Marilyn Monroe while pictures of the caisson being pulled down Pennsylvania Avenue were being broadcast.

Has broadcast journalism lost all dignity and decency? Even though there are probably more arguments for the great achievements of the Nixon years as there are arguments against the Watergate affair, the coverage of the funeral of a President is no time to dwell on such controversy.

Please don't think that I support the Watergate affair. In fact, the following election of 1976 caused the greatest dilemma I have ever had in making an election decision. I actually voted against the man I thought would make a better President because I believed the Constitutional concerns were of greater importance. But I have also been brought up to know when respect and decency are in order. Obviously, those responsible for C-Span and the Susan Swain coverage do not.

The highest management of C-Span owes a public apology on air to the Nixon family and the American people for this disgraceful broadcast with Susan Swain and Jules Witcover. I hope the management of C-Span airs this apology quickly and prominently. Judging by the broadcast comments aired, C-Span has lost a great deal of respect of its viewers.

Sincerely, 