

15 June 1990

The Honorable Senator Daniel P. Moynihan
United States Senate
Washington DC 20515

Dear Senator Moynihan:

Your remarks, during the Foreign Relations Committee Hearing on US/Iraq Relations this morning as covered by C-SPAN held me spell-bound! When so many groups today ignore the law and the best interest of the country with intent of covering up weaknesses and wrongdoing, to hear someone in high political office speak the truth and cut through the fuzzy rhetoric that is paralyzing our political system was reassuring. Thank you, Senator Moynihan!

And may I also express the hope that you will protect and nurture C-SPAN's fine treatment of interviews and events. C-SPAN is a truly remarkable demonstration of how modern communication technology can enhance our democratic processes. Once one has seen what C-SPAN does with its open-programming, the deficiencies of the commercial news programs are painfully self-evident.

Watching C-Span has humanized congress in a way that nothing else has -- I now feel I personally know our elected representatives in Congress, and I understand as never before the huge problems they face . This has enhanced my own appreciation for the vital work Congress is doing. C-Span has become ~~is~~ a vital force in enhancing the effectiveness of our representative government, educating the electorate, and encouraging the the citizen to improve and support his government.

Sincerely yours,

15 June 1990

Representative Robert Kastenmeier
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Representative Kastenmeier:

While your Subcommittee considers televising courtroom proceedings, it is crucial that C-SPAN, rather than the commercial networks, be used as a model of what can be accomplished.

Although too much of the TV media revels in trashing human values, watching C-SPAN has for me become an increasingly valuable experience since retiring from Johns Hopkins University. Busy people, such as yourself and the Supreme Court justices, may not be aware of the continuing innovative development of C-SPAN programming. This is evident in Justice Scalia's objection to allowing cameras in the courts. Scalia presumes that TV coverage will necessarily incorporate sound bites and show-biz of the commercial media. He ignores C-SPAN's success in avoiding these pitfalls and fails to recognize the positive influence C-SPAN already exerts on our political and democratic institutions.

Although many people remain unaware of C-SPAN, a rapidly growing group of viewers is benefiting from watching its programs and learning about the workings of our government and society generally. You should be impressed by the fact that many viewers of the call-in programs preface their comments with "Thank God for C-SPAN!". I feel the same way. Given the cynicism rampant on the political scene today, this expression of interest and concern by the viewing audience is particularly noteworthy.

I've just written a brief letter to Daniel Moynihan thanking him for the views he expressed this morning while chairing the Foreign Relations Committee during its hearing on *US-Iraq Relations* that was covered by C-SPAN. (I attach a copy of my letter hereto).

A month ago, C-SPAN-II covered the conference on *The Press and Public Service*, at which all the big wheels spoke (Petersmeyer,