

[REDACTED]
Portsmouth, NH 03801-5419

2nd August 1993

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Dear Mr. Lamb,

To begin PLEASE excuse the poor typing. I have just sustained a MAJOR power surge and outage that has cost me my PC's recent memory, and created the mystery of why it takes 9-10 HITS on the "R" key to print, and on occasion various others keys! Wy it could not he been a "Q" is a part of Murphy's Law.

This wekend I wrote one of my Brown University's friend's father - Noam Chomsky in Lexington, Massachusetts. I am sure that you can imagine the reason.

I have so many gripes with C-SPAN that I am at fits and starts about what to say and how to phrase it all. Since I have never called your shows, I must also say that I have called your programming department twice.

Possibly because [REDACTED]

He is also offended by much that happens on your program. I have always been dubious about the educational value of "watching" the Senate and "Congress." Having been lucky to have received a Ph.D. in government, I am more and more amazed at how the proportion of viewers are also seemingly among the least educated overall about government. Having taught high school in Maine and designed the school curriculum as well, I was amazed at how vey little students know about how this government works. Just recently I met a man, and it was not a romantic "Sleepless in Seattle," met "hello from Portland, Maine." One Monday morning last week, when you hosted, I heard 6 of the same callers. There was Seattle, Madison, WI, the opthamologist's wife (my father is an opthamologist), Beverly Hills, Ft. "Something," Florida, and Eugene, Oregon and this happens EVERY Monday and Friday. Why, these people, so says Portland, get up at 6 am and start auto dialing at 7-7:30. On that I DO FAULT C-SPAN. Simply get an 800 number (why should it cost me \$5+) when Alexandria can call free. You could also change your number, and most importantly, like many radio shows, take every 5th, 6th, or 7th call, inceasing the odds that those FIRST calls will NOT always be the same callers.

Having enough in my blood that says the "medium IS te message," I called a CNN show 8 years ago to "ask a question of a foreign diplomat. I got anxious over the phone and missed the progam. I learned that I can learn MORE watching a program and listening and acting locally. Sen. Dole will have to come , unfortunately since this silly state gets the 1st say, and answer questions that viewers got from your show, Rush Limbaugh, Jerry Williams and the sort..the "I know it all, listen to me, and tell them!" I DO NO BELIEVE that you don't hear that the callers often spout in the AM the night radio shows. Listen to the radio and you'll know what to expect. M. Germand is correct, the Ditto-heads do not well represent everyone. Mr. Lamb , don't you too hear the same tone, especially when a caller begins by saying "God Bless C-SPAN," or "Thank goodness for C-SPAN because those guys on NBC, CBS, NBC and CNN are SOOO biased - and THEY aren't?" I personally know that with enough knowledge under my belt, I can watch and judge anything. One of my friend's college-bound son thinks that Rep. Arme y (TX) is going to win a Nobel prize and that economics is a finite science.

Why must your Monday call-ins, which APPEAR but are not, the most important shows on C-SPAN. It is all in apppearance. It is a time to show off other symbols and signs like news covers, photos, and headlines that YOU m. Lamb choose!. Indeed your shows are as credible to your viewers as are you. The 2 are correlated. Notice that people now have elevated YOU to superstar and not Mr. Collins, wo is my favorite host. I like Mr. Collins as he as a better method of moving the show to a salient point. He knows how to get the guests to interact. His did an excellent job with Mr.s Greiter and Gigot, but some callers asked where you were.

As for "balance" I do not expect it. You answered Ms. Madison by saying that you DID NOT, DID NOT have alot ot Wall Street Journal guests. You do.

Since a Republican friends and I are planning a local cable show on issues, we have watched C-SPAN and used it as a means to dismiss much of what is done. It was you who set the point-counterpoint standard, so I think that getting bristley when called on it is unfair. Today I thought you had one of the VERY few GOOD Monday call-in shows. Who were your guests? Two rather liberal writers. I like Andrew Sullivan and Clarence Page and were I doing programming, I would see NO reason to add a Boston Herald Felder or anyone from The Spectator JUST for so-called balance. I think the need for that balance is something that you yourself feel as a cable carrier responsible and liable to cover. This is YOUR internal barometer not those of your viewers. Since we plan to do an issues show on things mostly local or regional, we are looking for the best people NOT party representatives. Did C-SPAN play any role in the rise of Ross Perot? I have colleagues that would say that is true. My parents, both surgeons, are now claiming to be experts on what is what based they admit on the fact of "liking" the Representative that might present a certain bill or nominee. My mother hates Senator Hatch because he is "soo aware of having his cuffs straight." She is an oncologist but the picture overwhelms her opinions and she readily admits the fact. If TV were totally interactive, I assume that my parents and other viewers would reach into the TV and grab their least favorites and yank them forever out of the picture!

Remember that Hughy Long said that "Facism will speak with the voice of America." Is America summoning Ross Perot INSPITE of substance and what role have you knowingly or unknowingly in the process of government becoming more and more uncooperative and acrimonious. Indeed I would say that the fact that the Founding Fathers were self-righteous men who wanted to protect their states and others of their ilk in the Constitution. I agree more with the Gettysburg Address in saying "whether this nation or any nation can long endure." In that speech it was obvious that Lincoln saw the process as ongoing not set in stone in the 18th Century. If it was so good why did all the libertarians move west? The fact that Manifest destiny has been fulfilled, is in itself a problem so that those who would like to "get away" are now imploding and using C-SPAN and other media as a forum.

It frightens The Europeans that C-SPAN in league with SKY Broadcasting want to add talk shows to the Parliament on TV.

Thank goodness no talk show/call-in was there to dilute the event. Newspeople were forced to interview people on the street and got an interesting sample that included Europeans and vacationers from the US and Canada.

I really feel that C-SPAN should sit down and assess its role in the violent tone of discussion in America. I was unhappy when Hubert Humphrey lost, but I was not filled with this hate felt today that C-SPAN does not curb. If it is true that "a little bit of knowledge is a dangerous thing," then C-SPAN might qualify. I enjoy, having worked for the DSG in college, watching my government at work, but Mr. Lamb I think that you must also be unafraid in addressing your role in the political dialogue. By now you have, I expect, either stopped reading, or are angry with my stupidity and limited vision. I also blame my local government in improperly representing its goals. In a government of layers, folk in DC are not as important as the folk in my town. Since I have less interest in DC politics I am really just interested that the Supreme Court remains fair in arbitration of issues that divide. This nation is just too big. As an EEC specialist I worry that Europe will regret voting for a federal system. Since I live in New Hampshire/Boston, I would understand the real European sentiment saying "but I live in Luxembourg...!" Will Germany become our New York and California?

Finally, Mr. Lamb, what did you say to Joe Grandmaison in Dublin Ohio at a Cable meeting? He says that you, in your best Nixon attitude, said that we close to "the People's Republic of Cambridge were always unhappy with REAL America!" Do you, as you appear to me, really think that we are all pinkos? Do you also realize how it sounds when you say "Oh you went to Harvards too, and were a Rhodes scholar, what does that mean?" As a Marshall Scholar at the LSE and Oxford, my answer is simple...I like to study and I do not agree

with George Will !"

If you are really smart, then you owe it to your audience to explain your personal awe with more than 4 years of education....or is that a left over from your anti-New England Nixon days?

I hope that Mr. Comsky does come on and that you speak to him with someone of his scholarly caliber like William Greider or Andy Lewis and not go to the ends of Washington to find some "conservative" to counter his more than well earned weight. Most of your audience do not know who these people are anyway. I like most readers have favorite critics and observers. I stopped 20 years of the New Yorker when Tina Brown fired Elizabeth Drew, even though I like Sydney Blumenthal. As I get 40 magazines and 5 newspapers, I do not like the fact that the New Yorker is trying its best to compete with Time, Newsweek, and US News. I like the "read it after 6 month perspective. I loved Ms. Drew.

Our local Congressman Bill Zellif (our Senators are a disgrace) keeps up on news each week by proudly claiming that he watches Brinkley's This Week on Tape. I hope the show on the flood helped him make up his "open" mind on the tax bill in a state where 90% of the great "Small business that fuel the economy" hire only temporary workers a \$6 a hour and offer no benefits and keep workers earning poverty rate wages. That is one reason that I like Mr. Collins, his questions to your guests are much more "savy."

Finally, since your constant presence is already here for this 1st in that nation Primary and invited America - who usually NEVER travel beyond a 1000 miles in their lives (we get overseas tourists and the wealthy), you really lionized the Manchester Union Leader in a way that I am sure that Sen Rudman would have found nauseous.

So now that you have, as of this month, made sure that we will always now talk not of Democrats and Republicans but liberals, conservatives, and moderates. That is OK if, like the McCarthy era, you and other let guests say "The Democrat Party." The word Democrat is NOT except in the 50's used as an adjective.

To end I do like VERY much your Convention Coverage, the coverage of hearings when able and Press Club events. However, I did not see it and would have watched anything done by the Spectator or New Republic shows.

Please let me know if Noam says OK, I would not want to miss it...I tried to write to him why he SHOULD do the show. He did Donahue/Pozner and also appears on Boston TV. If you are in Boston or have a satellite, watch WGBH's "Monday Group." I suspect that most of your callers would hate it simply because they CANNOT interact.

This year, I called to request a call-in show in place of the Monday/Friday Journalist Roundtable show with a table of college newspaper editors. One of my students, who was graduated by Harvard (the first from his school in 20 years) as President and Editor of the Crimson. Julian follows other Crimson notables like Boyden Grey and David Halberstam. I think the show would have been interesting. He is going to the LA Times, I think and was on GMA in 1992. You are just so stuck on "ratings" of Monday/Friday Journalists Day. Why not a panel on why is America so angry.

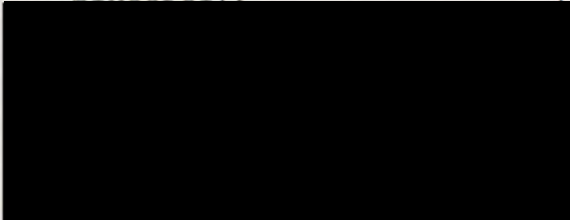
I'd love to work at a place like C-SPAN but I know that I am too not the right political ilk. I personally, to answer the query of your callers think that you voted for George Bush. How did I come to that conclusion. It is my own theory that men who wear white-white shirts and have no facial hair from the mid-west voted for my 30 mile north neighbor. It is my theory that should follow from a student who wrote a paper for the Boston Phoenix entitled "The Stars and Marx: The role of astrology in Marxist dialectic." Yes it was the 60's.....I still keep track of Birthdays in a book 20 years later. Perhaps I should note that like one of my sign, Ché Guevara, are if anything, flashy.. I have the same Birthday as Cole Porter, Happy Rockefeller, Johnny Depp (TV), Les Paul, Barry Commoner, Robert McNamara, and Marvin Kalb. There must be some reason that on a lighter side, only one President was born during my month and 2 had my sign. No it is not Leo, but like Leo only Billy Clinton follows Herbert Hoover as a Leo. Now 4 Presidents were born in August, but 2 were Virgos letting my month and September equal in Presidential Representation. Thank you if you've read this far and let me know about the Comsky Affair.

Only My month and September have equal White House Representation.

Thank-you for allowing me my little peculiarities. I do not like the hot weather -at all. Give me Winter and Melbourne in Summer.

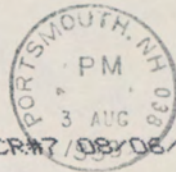
Please let me know about the "Chomsky Affair" and I would be glad to spend a month there proforma to plan some programming that I THINK would make C-SPAN shine, and still not turn off conservatives at all. Indeed I think Rush is fascinating TV and I think that he should be able to get sponsors other than The Spectator and The Limbaugh Letter. I do not, however, like being called a femonazi, the conotation in this skin-head world is too ugly to reference.

Sincerely,



PS. Again, I am really a better typer, when my gadgets cooperate. My own handwriting is nice, but even less readable so I am told.

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