

Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
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Dear Brian;

Thank you for the excellent coverage of government and politics. I appreciate being able to watch Congressional Committee hearings as well as regular sessions of Congress and I enjoy features such as Book Notes, The National Press Club luncheons and various policy group meetings. I am grateful for the insight and interest in governmental activities I have gained watching C-SPAN.

However, I have become more and more troubled by call-in shows. I know the premise is to allow viewers to express opinions and ask questions but I am beginning to wonder if you are getting less and less ordinary viewers and more and more political operatives using these call-ins as free air time to broadcast their propaganda or damage control. As I listened this week, it seemed a huge majority of the viewers oppose an investigation of Whitewater. I tried to call but could

not get through. This is such a stark difference from what I hear around me and what is coming over the local talk show which is hosted by a man who says he voted for President Clinton. I, also, saw a poll showing sixty two per cent favoring the appointment of a special Counsel. Yet, on Larry King Live, McLaughlin, and Donahue Posner I hear callers who are the same as C-SPAN or they are reading from the same script. There are about four or five different lines I hear over and over. I really believe that the Clinton damage control operatives are using Call in shows as part of a clever strategy to create a deceptive impression that the entire country is opposing an investigation and angry with those who are demanding it.

Viewers believe in the integrity of C-SPAN and trust it as an alternative to other media. If my perception is true, it is a tremendous disservice to viewers having political strategist use Call-in shows to deceive journalist and viewers in this way.

Sincerely,

