

"I WATCH C-SPAN BECAUSE . . ."

Submitted by:

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I WATCH C-SPAN BECAUSE . . .

. . . it offers the greatest bargain of the era in television today. Where, but in the United States of America, could you find such drama, education, suspense, humor, pathos, inspiration, and hope - much, much hope! In the entire range of human emotions - there is nothing missing on C-SPAN.

Considering myself a middle America, average, slightly right of center, Republican, you might think my delight with C-SPAN comes when I hear someone on the call-in segments comment on what they consider a tilt toward conservatism . . . Not so! My pleasure comes when I find I have listened critically for an hour's presentation to a point of view far removed from my own - delivered by an extremely well informed person with forthrightness, sincerity and great conviction.

Where else on the face of this earth can the ordinary citizen be exposed to so much open discussion on so many extremely important subjects of current significance. In a time and place where the No. 1 sport seems to be "tear down", "destroy", "denigrate", "ridicule", and "embarrass" our government and all those on both sides of the aisle connected with it, it is more than refreshing - it is exhilarating to feel the hope, the dedication, the love of country, and the sincere desire on the part of so many to do their job and to do it well.

Every time I come away from a period of C-SPAN involvement, it is with a feeling of gratitude. Thankful for our country, our people, and our government - with all its faults - all its "warts". Thankful for all the men and women of good faith and high ideals and noble desires. With a never-ending roster of seemingly insurmountable problems facing our world today, what better climate can we have to approach these demons than open forums such as C-SPAN offers.

To watch a rapid fire verbal confrontation between two well informed participants is to view a small but important slice of our civilization - our democracy. Then to hear a gentleman from Santa Monica, California or a lady from Gary, Indiana critique these two is to glory in our most precious First Amendment.

Thomas Mann, the German essayist and novelist and Nobel Prize winner, said "Speech is civilization itself. The word, even the most contradictory word, preserves contact - it is silence which isolates."

I would like to see exposure to C-SPAN become required curriculum for high school civics, government or social studies classes. What a wonderful way to learn government, parliamentary procedure, communication, debate - the positives go on and on!

Yes . . . Where, but in America . . . !

I'm hooked on C-SPAN!