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April 5, 1994

Brian Lamb
C-Span
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Dear Brian:

Your political bias is showing.

Yesterday I watched you host two journalists, a woman from the Washington Times and a man from (was it?) New York Newsday.

She was clearly a partisan for the conservative side of the spectrum. She did not even try for an appearance of fairness and objectivity. Rather, she was in the attack mode and was perfectly willing to use innuendo and rumor rather than facts.

She told us her paper was getting lots of calls about Clinton from people who had been in Viet Nam -- people who are now lawyers and such. This was getting very interesting, very interesting, she claimed. (But what exactly had these people said, and had their claims been verified? If so, tell us. If not, it is McCarthyism to imply things this way.) She went on to make Clinton's visit to Moscow as a student sound vaguely treasonous, and referred to rumors of his having made contact with the North Vietnamese. She cited no evidence on these matters either.

Meanwhile, the other guest made an effort to be fair and professional, referring to what had and had not been proven in "Whitewater". It was not obvious to the viewer what his politics were; in fact he appeared to be making every effort to be even-handed and responsible.

To balance the Washington Times writer, you should have presented someone on the other side of the spectrum who was as fiercely partisan as she. That someone could claim (evidence or not) that the press is being led, or duped, by the right into destroying Clinton's presidency.

Last week a caller to a journalistic round table you hosted claimed, "You journalists are trying to destroy Clinton's presidency. . . ." I was surprised to hear you jump in with, "Caller, what makes you say we are trying to destroy the president?" What surprised me was your use of "we", when I had taken her remarks to be directed at your guests.

If you air rabid partisans of one stripe only, you deserve such charges. And you do not deserve, certainly, Congressional funding.

A former admirer,

[REDACTED]

BC:ws

copy under cover letter:

Feinstein

Boxer

Miller