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Editor:

C-SPAN resolutely denies a taint of political predilection. The number of ardent callers challenging C-SPAN's expression of innocence grows daily. Taken to task during his 5 February morning program, Brian Lamb struggled with an explanation that all the conservative media representatives seemed to be located in close proximity to Washington D.C. and were within easy reach of C-SPAN's studios, while correspondents, and journals of liberal persuasion are stationed in far flung environs, inaccessible to C-SPAN.

If C-SPAN's efforts to maintain balance are indeed dependent on the proximity of sources to the D.C. area, these local contacts should be chosen with care. The most inconsequential and politically extreme publications should be avoided. It is one thing to quote from, and entertain members of, such nationally recognized conservative organs as 'The Wall Street Journal'. But to continually flaunt

articles and routinely entertain members of a biased newspaper that is little known outside of the Beltway is to invite charges that C-SPAN is itself is predisposed. The "Washington Times" is owned by foreign religious mystics and run by hyperventilating autocrats. Its circulation is miniscule as compared with papers in cities equal in size to Washington. Not a morning C-SPAN call-in show goes by without some reference to the paper. It is rare to see a week of telecasting without the appearance of one of the ultra right wing advocates that work on the "Washington Times".

Newt Gingrich, by his endless 'Special Orders' speeches to an empty floor of the House, carried on C-SPAN, has come to be known as 'the son of C-SPAN'. May we now assume that the "Washington Times" can be regarded as 'the product of C-SPAN'? If it is inconvenient for C-SPAN to present journalists quartered beyond the Beltway, C-SPAN should strive for a more balanced parochial diet. Bias is the 'bad' cholesterol of discerning T.V. programming, and the potential of C-SPAN is too great to become victim of it.


Stuart, Fl.