

Dec. 9, 1996

O-W)

Dear Brian,

I have many things I would like to discuss in this letter but in an effort to keep it from turning into a novel, I will do my best to limit it. This effort I also hope, will also help in actually getting you to read it.

I first became acquainted with C-Span in November 1992. I suppose I would now qualify for the title of "junkie". However, recently I have decided that it may be time to break the addiction, or at least reduce it to a habit.

Until recently, I felt your programming was the only source of TV information that truly was presenting unbiased views and not the "brainwashing" that is being presented on the other major networks.

I am truly sorry to say that for some time now, I have detected a change in your programming. The change was subtle at first but became increasingly obvious. Although I noticed it before you began "screening" calls by political leanings, it was at that point it became truly suspect. I apparently was not the only viewer who noticed it as noted by the many negative calls you were getting regarding the change.

Because of my admiration for you I accepted your explanation that it was something that was being tried out during the recently ended political season and was most likely a temporary thing. To let it



continue now with no further explanation is destroying the programs credibility and possibly yours own. Indeed Brian, when watching your demonstration when questioned about this change, one got the feeling of frustration on your part which may have come from the "muzzling" of your true feelings.

The matter of presenting different viewpoints is also becoming questionable. Again, the change was subtle but, "Shades of George Orwell" it is becoming increasingly obvious. At first, in fairness to you, I thought possibly you were just having trouble getting panelists with real different viewpoints. However, as that seems rather improbable, one is forced to conclude it is intentional.

My last observation regards a statement you made several months ago.

On one of your programs you made reference to an organization known as the "Council on Foreign Relations". You also mentioned the interest so many of your viewers expressed regarding this organization. You stated that in view of this interest, which I myself share in, you were going to try and have more programming on it. To my knowledge, none has taken place or did I miss it?

Now, I know there is purely not a shortage of CFR members. They appear on an almost daily basis, in one setting or another, on your programming as well as all the major networks. Of course, these



members never mention their affiliation with the CFR and are usually introduced as representatives of some obscure organization or another that most of us have never heard of.

Considering there are so many of them that like to appear and do their "spin" on other programming it would seem to be no problem to recruit someone to appear for a few shows on C-Span. Perhaps, it wouldn't be someone who is quite well known, or can take time from their official duties of the many high profile public offices they are holding but, considering their large membership roster surely someone is available.

Now, for a panelist with a different viewpoint to appear with the CFR member and discuss their differences, who else but John McManus of the John Birch Society. Wouldn't this make great viewing and I am sure Mr. McManus would take great pleasure in appearing. Just imagine.

The many interesting questions the viewers would be calling in. Even more interesting would be the participants answers. Of course, they call "J. S." thing would have to be discontinued during these programs to make sure there would be no suggestion of "spinning" or "muzzling".

If you can't find the time to respond to this inquiry, possibly you or one of your assistants on the Washington Journal Show might give the viewership an updating

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on whom we can expect to be treated to one or more programs that would give us more insight into this organization known as the CFR. Considering the amount of interest you claimed was being expressed I should think that would be high on your future programming agenda. Looking forward to it.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]



Chicago, IL 60655-3613

P.S. Going to continue viewing Brian but I must admit to being a little disillusioned. I think I kept this down to a movie letter size at least. Thanks for taking the time to read it.