

I watch C-SPAN because it is a mini-university which offers courses on all The RIGHT STUFF. As I enjoy the sessions of the House of Representatives, I expect Tip O'Neil to point to me and ask: "For what purpose does the gentlelady from Maine rise?" My answer is that I rise to congratulate C-SPAN on its fifth anniversary and especially for presenting us with the channel par excellence. How I love those delightful call-in programs! They give us the chance to express our views while listening to those of others. We get this valuable education without having to assimilate cold statistics. There's no need to search for The Beef; it is all there, and all filet mignon at that!

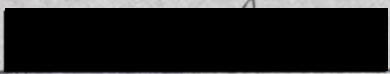
I've learned more about our fifty states and their cities by watching C-SPAN than by pouring over geography and history textbooks. I watched the Iowa and Virginia caucuses, and it reminded me of that famous early TV program, YOU ARE THERE. I felt I was there, too, among the voters. I became quite cognizant of the vernacular used, and I went to my own caucus with enough insight into the process to realize that my group lacked the percentage to be viable. We became popular instantly.


I always enjoy speakers from foreign countries. What a treat to hear François Mitterand speak that impeccable French of his! The dessert came when he paid his respects to the portrait of the Marquis de LaFayette. I reached for the encyclopedia to refresh my memory on this historical figure of my school days. I read that in 1824 he revisited America and received a hero's welcome and a \$200,000 gift from the government. As President Reagan would say: "Well, I've always been generous. That's how I started the deficit."

Because I understand Spanish un poquito, I listened to President Alfonsine of Argentina with the utmost interest. Helmut Schmidt's speech was also a treasure of food for thought. Another important program is the Close Up Foundation. It provides a new dimension in citizenship education for schools and communities. It is a priceless experience for young students to have their say in public and their questions answered by experts like Daniel Shore, my favorite journalist.

I look forward to the two political conventions this summer. I know C-SPAN will be the channel with the most extensive coverage. We're told that when something seems too good to be true, it usually is. But not C-SPAN. It gives us the best of the best, la crème de la crème as Monsieur Mitterand would say.

Perhaps, too many compliments may appear exaggerated, but C-SPAN deserves them all and many more. I wish I could ask for unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks, but my enthusiasm is limited to 500 words. Thank you C-SPAN, yours is truly The Voice Of The People, and we know that Vox populi, vox Dei. I yield the balance of my words.

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