

November 4, 1994.

Terence Murphy,
C-Span,
400 North Capitol St., NW,
Suite 650,
Washington, D. C.
20001

Viewer programming

Dear Mr. Murphy:

It is imperative that a letter such as this begin with a huge "thank you" for the many ways in which C-Span has enhanced my life.

One of my most fascinating experiences with your service was a recent discussion of the Harper's report on the exaggerations, distortions, and outright inaccuracies of the New York Times' extensive coverage of the so called Whitewater Scandal, in which the New York Times had been invited to participate, but didn't, and your panel was admirably well balanced.

Just this afternoon, though--observe how carefully I have avoided the "but" you were expecting--in what I think was a Journalists' Roundtable, the subject came up again and both the New York Times' Richard Berke and the Washington Times' Donald Lambro were permitted, without challenge, to lend credence to a caller yammering about the Whitewater affair's revelations not including the fact that he knew the probe had revealed the president was a drug king pin.

Lambro, who works for a paper that is no more than an irresponsible ultra right wing political pamphlet, shouldn't be included in any group assembled by an organization normally as creditable as yours. He did concede that he had not heard about the drug charges, but said it in a way that implied quite clearly that it just might be true.

2--

He also backed up Berke in boasts about the Times' breaking the story in March of 1992 and then did the minuet of justification for the vast coverage the caller insisted he hadn't seen or heard. It was due, he said, quite naturally, to the president's "character defects" and the matter of "trust," which, I doubt even Olde Gingrich or Bob Dull really believe any more.

Hadn't your moderator heard of the Harper's article, particularly since C-Span devoted what must have been more than an hour to it?

Hadn't anybody read the Wall Street Journal editorial demanding reporters be more "aggressive" in their Whitewater probe? They should do so, the writer insisted--and this is a direct quote--"at the risk of *being overtaken by the facts!*"

Shouldn't at least one of these two questions arisen?

I would like to think that Brian Lamb would have asked both of them. You can tell him so and also that I'd like to be interviewed by him after the publication of my book about 60 years in print, radio and television news-- *The Garbage Collectors*.

As I describe myself to the good woman who answers CNN's Los Angeles telephone, I remain, your best friend and severest critic,

[REDACTED]
Diamond Bar, CA.,
91765
[REDACTED]