C-Span's 5th Anniversary
400 N. Capitol St., NW
Suite 155
Washington, DC 20001

Sarasota, Fla. 33581

24 April 1984

I watch C-Span public affairs network because it is my window to the world of Washington and our federal government. Before C-Span, the opportunity to get any first-hand information on how the government really works and what brings about some of the decisions our public officials make was somewhere between remote and non-existant for me — unless I wanted to read the Congressional Record.* I tend to throw up my hands in frustration and ignore if possible those public problems and situations about which I have insufficient reliable information, much less control over.

Before C-Span I was much more willing to "let George do it" when it came to taking an active interest in public affairs. The net result of that policy is often that you wake up sooner or later to the realization that "George has done it" to you. C-Span changed all that. It is my fervant hope that our young people will gain increased understanding of our government from what they see and hear on C-Span. I hope they will be inspired to get involved in the process before "George does it" to them without their knowlege and consent.

The Panama Canal debate was my introduction to C-Span. I sat glued to the television set — absolutely fascinated as I watched the U.S. House of Representatives maneuver, debate and vote on that issue. I realized then — and on many occasions since — that C-Span permits me an in-depth probing and discussion of the issues vital to us all to an extent hitherto unavailable to me. I want to be a responsible citizen and voter, but I cannot be so without access to the pertinent facts.

Many times a speaker's voice inflections, facial expressions or "body language" is worth far more than a thousand of his words. Thank you, C-Span, for being my window to the world of Washington.

Sincerely

* (Even the original record of those proceedings has been amended by the time it is printed. There's no way you can beat "live coverage"!)

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~~P.O. Box 2600~~
~~Raleigh, N.C. 27611-800~~ Suite ~~~~ 155

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