

June 7, 1993

Mr. Brian Lamb, Chairman and CEO
C-SPAN Networks
400 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

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Dear Chairman Lamb:

Please let me preface my comments with the fact that I watch C-SPAN on a regular basis, including the special committee hearings. For several days I have been watching the Senate Armed Services hearings regarding "Gays and Lesbians" in the military. One thing was very obvious, the entire committee consisted of old men of the same race with the same life-long values and prejudices. They are set in their ways and have already decided the outcome no matter who testifies. The witnesses' experiences, education nor expertise is considered unless the witness agrees with this biased committee.

The United States military is voluntary and anyone who is willing to lay his or her life on the line, to die for their country and is QUALIFIED, should have the opportunity to serve. Qualifications and conduct should be the determining factor, the measuring stick, not gender or sexual orientation. One's sexual activities should not be a condition that determines whether an individual can serve in the military. Sexual activity should be a private matter. I'm sure (I hope) that heterosexuals aren't required to specify the position, number of times or with whom they have sexual relations or encounters, therefore, it is unfair to demand or expect homosexuals to do so. It is a double standard. The military code of justice should be the same across the board. Senator Thurman mentioned "sodomy" being against the military code of justice. I'm sure that his narrow mindedness and prejudice will not allow him to accept the fact that many heterosexuals indulge in sodomy.

As Senator Feinstein said, "The military is not/should not be a "private club" that excludes some and accepts others with like views." I agree whole-heartedly. The American public, tax payers, pay for the maintenance of enlisted individuals in total. This includes their salaries,

housing, food, clothing, utilities, education, equipment, entertainment, health care and travel. It's just not fair to discriminate. We are all human beings with red blood, that breathe the same air and we all die once. The old, career soldiers, (Generals, officers etc.,) have had their opportunities and they have been paid. Now it is time for them to step aside, taking their old, antiquated ideas, rules and discriminatory regulations with them and allow/permit someone else with innovative, new ideas to "run the ship." I am convinced that the whole world will be surprised. Let those who don't want to serve next to a homosexual retire or "get out". I wonder if those who so strongly object to lifting the ban on homosexuals in the military might have fears about their own sexuality. I also wonder if their present conduct might be questionable. Perhaps those individuals in the military who cannot "live and let live" should find another career. Should we measure the military code of conduct and justice by Senator Bob Packwood's conduct, or perhaps by the conduct of the Tailhook Military Officers? Was that conduct becoming to a cohesive, upstanding military? What about Senator Ted Kennedy's past conduct? These are just a few recent incidents that have been publicized.

I'm sure that my opinion is one of many. However, If one only sits and "views", making no comments, nothing will ever change.

Sincerely

Inglewood, CA 90301

cc: President William J. Clinton
Diane Fienstein
Maxine Waters
Los Angeles Times Editor

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