


Myrtle Beach, S. C. 29572
28 May 1994

Mr. Brian P. Lamb
Chairman of the Board
National Cable Satellite Corp
C-Span
400 N. Capitol St. NW
Washington, D. C. 20001-1811

Dear Mr. Lamb:

C-Span and everyone associated with it should hang his or her head in shame. I watched your coverage of the funeral of President Nixon on Tuesday and Wednesday and couldn't believe that anyone could bungle coverage the way you did on those evenings.

The person that was supposed to provide the commentary sounded as though she was dropped into the job without any preparation. The newspaper columnist on Tuesday evening did not like anything about President Nixon and wanted everyone to know it. If the program had been coverage of an election or a political convention, his remarks might have been appropriate; they were certainly inappropriate in this situation. I am not speaking about this from the point of view of a political partisan. This was the funeral of a President of the United States.

The camera person at the funeral made it his prime concern to portray the family and others in their most embarrassing light. He kept swinging the camera to one or the other of President Nixon's daughters and to his brother to see if they were sobbing or crying or uncomfortable.

His coverage of the emotional breakdown of Senator Dole was bad enough, but he had to follow the Senator back to his seat so the viewers would not miss any of the turmoil that Senator Dole was experiencing. Anyone with even one iota of compassion would have swung the camera away from Senator Dole to save him the agony of having his feelings exposed, even after he sat down. Your camera person should heed the adage "Do unto others as you would wish others to do unto you."

In the meantime, the commentary was continued in its outlandish fashion. She did save the worst until the service was over. At that time, she said she had twenty five minutes and would open the telephones so the public could tell what they thought about the funeral.

All of you at C-Span should find other positions because none of you have the ability to operate or supervise a television operation.

Very sincerely

