

[REDACTED]
Fairfield, IA 52556
[REDACTED]

Wed, Aug 26, 1992

Mr. Terry Murphy
Programming Director
C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol St. NW, Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Murphy:

I am writing to you to express my deep concern about the upcoming presidential debates and the democratic process.

The decision making process which determines debate participation is not fair, and does not truly reflect the democratic process.

The debates are governed by the Commission on Presidential Debates, which has bi-partisan domination and excludes third party or independent party candidate participation.

The criteria established by the Commission on Presidential Debates are clearly skewed in favor of Republican and Democratic candidates. Major party candidates have much greater access to free media exposure.

Media exposure is a major criterion upon which entrance to the debates is granted, yet the purpose of the debates is to inform and educate the electorate about the candidates and their positions. It is said that it takes money to make money; in this case, it takes media to get media.

The only criterion for debate participation should be gaining ballot access to garner a sufficient number of electoral college votes to win the election—a task which is 26 times more difficult for third or independent parties than for the major parties.

I believe, along with millions of others, that any candidate who has accomplished ballot access has a right to be heard, and should be included in the debates.

I strongly urge you to guarantee that Dr. John Hagelin, who has practical, proven solutions to the nation's problems, be included in the presidential debates.

Dr. Hagelin is a Harvard-trained quantum physicist. He represents the Natural Law Party, the nation's most rapidly growing political party, with approximately 75 candidates running for Federal office. The Natural Law Party has gained ballot access in 18 states at this time, and anticipates being on the ballot in 35 states by the November election. A third party candidate of this caliber, who has worked long and hard to achieve ballot access in 18 states, should at least have equal access to prime time media.

We would also like to ask you to personally send a direct request to the Commission on Presidential Debates to include Dr. John Hagelin in the debates. Please send your request to:

Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr., and Paul G. Kirk, Jr., Co-Chairmen
Commission on Presidential Debates [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] South Washington, DC. 20005

Will you give your official support to Dr. John Hagelin being included in the presidential debates—yes or no? We anxiously await your reply. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you do support this position.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]