

[REDACTED] Tulsa, OK. Oct. 6, 1997

Brian Lamb
c/o C-Span Viewer Services
400 N. Capital St. NW
Washington, DC, 20018

Dear Mr. Lamb:

There are many things, through your selection and treatment of guests, about your presentation of the daily machinations of Washington politics that I find entertaining, though not particularly enlightening. Other things I find distasteful and biased.

The first thing that comes to mind is your call-in telephone numbers. You have changed from your original format of offering the number to be called to offering three numbers to be called. This was to mollify the liberals who complained that more conservatives than liberals were being heard. Your answer to that should have been that no preference was being made and that all callers had the same chances. Instead you politicized your presentation to make it "fair," a straight-out Liberal solution.

I have made other complaints from time to time and aired my displeasure in letters but continued to tune in to your morning program. I am a sometime-watcher now, since your treatment of Mona Charen some two months ago.

My latest attempt to watch your program came less than a week ago. I tuned in to find Democrat Rep. Tierney from New York, as Liberals often do, claiming almost all of the time allotted for the call-in show. His motor mouth flapped constantly, repeating endlessly the Democrat line of obfuscation, delay, and let's-change-the-subject.

It's difficult to watch your show when this is a constant.

One thing about C-Span I have been unable to fathom: What is the attraction of statements about America and our government made eons ago by someone as obscure and unimportant as Alexis de Toqueville? Until Newt Gingrich - a historian - mentioned De Toqueville some three or four years ago, most Americans had never heard of him. Yet you at C-Span have taken quite a lot of air time telling us about someone who means nothing to any of us, and have gone so far as to traverse the route De Toqueville took in his brief travels through a small part of our country.

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I might suggest to you that many of us would like - if you are going to peregrinate routes of historic figures (although in my mind De Toqueville, if considered at all, is the least of those) - maybe a "travelogue" about the Llano Estacado and the Palo Duro Canyon, or the Oregon Trail or Santa Fe Trail, the battle sites of the French and Indian War, a retelling of the Battle of New Orleans (to include the contribution of the Choctaw Indians), the Trail of Tears, the Chisholm Trail, the Goodnight Trail, the Lincoln County war. There are dozens of interesting historic avenues you could explore.

Another criticism is your failure to cover the Sen. Thompson hearings on a live basis. Whatever your commitment to show gavel-to-gavel presentation of the House of Representatives, it should have been changed. Your reasons sound like a pretty lame excuse for not showing the shortcomings and perhaps exposing criminal activity by the administration.

As for Alexis de Toqueville, forget me! As far as I know, he had no hand in exploring or settling our country, and his opinions are a matter of complete indifference to me.

Later,

