

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Washington, DC 20008 [REDACTED]

AND FAX

ant office

Dear Brian Lamb:

September 23, 1906

C-SPAN adds much-needed stature to the fraternity of media mavens. Still, I am not sure that C-SPAN comes out OK on the stealth issue that half of the funds Congress is free to spend go to feed our bloated military establishment. This veteran wants a mean, lean, efficient military as opposed to the one that Congress is force-feeding.

On three consecutive C-SPAN programs you struggled to come up with accurate numbers on the size of our present military budget. On the third one you got it right, but only if a viewer was quick enough to read one chart that appeared for a few seconds.

I refer to it as a stealth issue because most college professors don't know that each American pays each year one thousand dollars in taxes to fund our military even if we no longer face significant, threatening enemies.

One reason I penned the enclosed brochure was the frustration caused by the three programs mentioned.

Sir, is there any chance you might read all or key portions of the enclosed brochure on C-SPAN?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
O.WJ

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Washington, DC 20008 [REDACTED]

AND FAX

Dear Peter Hart,

September 22, 1996

When I happened upon you on Connecticut Ave. last week, I gave you a copy of the enclosed brochure.

It tells about what may be the greatest 'secret' in American politics--that we pay per person in taxes about one thousand dollars for our bloated military that eats up half of the funds Congress is free to spend. This veteran feels it is patriotic to have a mean, lean, efficient military as opposed to the current one.

Can you believe that with all the talk about the budget, deficits, tax cuts, that it is probably true that most college professors don't know that half of federal discretionary spending goes to the military?

The media seem unwilling or unable to lay out the facts and mostly civic education at schools and colleges is a joke.

Possibly only the pollsters can help.

Is there any chance that you might do a poll asking respondents what percent of funds Congress is free to spend go to fund the military? A poll several years ago (I have a copy of it) by the U. of Mass. at Amherst indicated that voters thought foreign aid to be the largest component of the federal budget. Just five days ago, near your office, a panhandler told me he thought foreign aid was the biggest item in the budget. How did this view filter down to street people, I wonder? It is because of the leadership of the GOP in Congress in effect attacking international institutions? Or press pandering? GOP leaders seem to want to wreck the existing international order, now aiming at foreigners now that the Evil Empire is gone.

A poll by you might do wonders to help sort out these questions, thereby helping to elevate the current political interchange from its depths.

Are you game?

The enclosed pieces may provide background on these items.
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