

CSPAN ✓
400 N Capital St. Northwest
Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

March 25, 1997

Investigative Journalism
Close Up Foundation

Please forward the enclosed extra copies of this letter to Tom Rosenstiel and David Bartlett. They discussed investigative journalism on a CSPAN show recently.

I am appalled and dismayed with the media reaction to the results of the Food Lion lawsuit against ABC. There was no legitimate reason for ABC to trash Food Lion.

My daughter and son-in-law (a Food Lion Store Manager) have worked at Food Lion for several years. It is not blind loyalty when they say they have never observed in practice the policies Food Lion is accused of. Between them they have worked in ten to twelve stores.

My brother-in-law a multiple store owner for over forty years in Ohio was discouraged by the 1992 Prime Time Live report. "That type of report could have been made against any store in the country with the methods that were used."

Food Lion is non-union. There is much evidence to support the theory that there was cooperation between ABC and union personnel who wanted to "get" Food Lion. Would Food Lion have been attacked if they were union? The answer is a resounding no.

For ABC to appeal the Food Lion award is equally appalling. They were penalized about one half the annual salary of a major network announcer. The value of the story to ABC was far in excess of this and the damage to Food Lion was far in excess of the award they received.

Food Lion remains in compliance with local regulations, there have been no cases of food poisoning from all the product sold over the years and there is no solid reason to believe they operate outside industry standards and policies.

It appears from discussion about this case that the media are determined to protect their free speech rights at all cost. The media cannot be above the law when they are wrong.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Fairfield, Ohio 45014-1553

copies David Bartlett
Tom Rosenstiel

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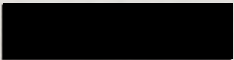
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