

[REDACTED]
WOODLAND HILLS, CALIFORNIA 91367

March 24th, 1993

Mr. Brian P. Lamb
Chairman, C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol St. N.W. Ste 650
Washington, D.C., 20010

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Dear Mr. Lamb:

I am a dedicated followers of C-SPAN. I particularly enjoy your leading new book discussions, in which you effectively and appropriately broaden the topic to include the author's background and motivations. Your talkshow type programs with newspaper correspondents, covering national and international affairs, are also very interesting to me. I do appreciate your projecting as host or moderator a refreshing directness along with an open minded impartiality. Let me express one concern regarding the talkshows, even though I don't really know how to resolve it.

So far, I have not felt the urge to call in, even though I am stimulated by the often thought provoking subjects addressed. If I can assume that I am just one of a vast audience of non-participating viewers, I could hypothesize that those calling in are not necessarily representative of America's population. Without carrying the thought too far, it is possible that many of the callers are specially extroverted, some even exhibitionists, intent on making an opinionated statement rather than raising questions about issues.

During one of your recent programs with newspaper people, I was struck by the tone of the callers. Unquestionably vehemently opposed to the new administration, the call-ins featured rather vituperative language and emotion-laden aggressive expressions. Nothing much you could do about this, I recognize. Yet, when I listen to vicious personal attacks on President Clinton, his wife and others, I cannot help placing this alongside our concern and memories about past actions by unstable individuals, resulting in terrible upheavals, such as the assassination of President Kennedy and the attempt to murder President Reagan. Question: having brought out of the closet some of the verbal aggression, what can be done to minimize the hazards that the personal attackers would feed each other and perhaps lead to unfortunate consequences? Can the Media, and especially the talk shows, counter some of these dangers by emphasizing reason and the absolute need to learn to live and let live in this incredibly diverse society?

I suspect you must have given thought to the above, perhaps even felt uncomfortable when so many callers used vicious language in expressing their antagonism toward individuals in the current government. I just wanted to bring to your attention the concern of one of your frequent viewers.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

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