

[REDACTED]
Nashville, TN 37205
[REDACTED]

September 3, 1993

Mr. Brian Lamb
President and CEO
C-Span
400 North Capitol Street
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

Help! This is an urgent appeal for information which we hope you can provide.

In the past, our cable carrier here, Viacom, carried C-Span in its basic package on our Channel 21. Two channels were dedicated to local access (very poorly used, though). On one of them, Channel 18, Metro Government would flick a switch at 1:00 p.m. on Friday to let us have C-Span II until Monday morning, leaving the majority unfamiliar with C-Span II.

Viacom, using the "must carry" provisions of the new law, took away Channel 21 on August 31. Channel 21 now carries a small station with religious broadcasting in some hours and, when it reverts to other programming, is scrambled. C-Span (rather than C-Span II) is now given the benefit of the switch on Channel 18 to permit weekend viewing only. C-Span II is available now on 28 from 3:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.! All of this is outrageous for a company with 39 channels and counting.

Is there any leverage in C-Span on the basis of the support of the cable industry which would help us in this situation? We understand the requirements of "must carry" (and its dreadful results), but there was nothing to oblige Viacom to pick on C-Span to solve it. There seems to be no concept of the need for the public airways to take into account the public welfare -- Viacom has no interest beyond money.

We do have local protests (an uphill battle), and are trying to get a Metro Council hearing. But we don't know if you, in your position, can protest to the cable industry which supports C-Span -- nor if you think "must carry" is a good idea, nor really how we can be more effective. What is the name of the national cable industry organization, its address and phone number? Is an economic monopoly (Viacom) not similar to a public utility? Would this argument hold up?

Thank you very much for any information you can provide.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Peter Kiley

CC: ~~White House~~ ~~Verizon~~

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