

April 25, 1984

I watch C-Span because I value highly information which helps me form my own opinions about U.S. policy, public servants and the future of this land. Neither the evening news, the local papers or the other programs on t.v. offer a format for sincere dialogue such as C-Span.

I'm a worker in Kansas City who's time is as valuable as money. In the morning, at lunch or after work I can feel like a participant in the affairs of this nation by tuning into C-Span. The interviews and speeches which interest me the most are repeated periodically in such a way that I seldom miss one. I take an interest in politics like some people closely follow sports. I want to know who struck out on the floor of the House or who won the final decision of a heated debate. Even if I worked in Washington D.C. I would watch C-Span because the cameras bring me closer to the various events than I could ever possibly find time to go to.

In the ancient civilization of the Greeks, Socrates noted the importance of frank conversation. That is to say people talking amongst themselves is fundamental to peaceful co-existence. However in the '80's, the great distances between the corners of this nation make it difficult for concerned citizens to discuss the issues, until the arrival of C-Span. Now, we, the people, are connected to the so called 'smoke-filled back rooms'

through our cable t.v. system - C-Span. Nobody can hide from us while stating their position on this or that, because C-Span's cameras let us know exactly what was said in the House of Representatives, in news conferences, private ceremonies and the like. This knowledge of individual positions on key issues is a basic step towards determining how I will vote in elections and how I can best work for the benefit of America as a whole.

I respect this country's role as a world leader and C-Span's capability to unite us in meaningful dialogue. The forum is now a place for all to join in the comfort of our homes, by watching C-Span. Personally I have never called on the telephone to make a statement or ask a question during one of the shows on C-Span. However, when I hear the other people call in I feel pleased to know that others are caring, watching, listening and thinking.

Our thoughtful forefathers included laws in the constitution which insured freedom of speech for all peoples of this nation. C-Span offers us a means to discuss those things which are on our minds - the call-in programs. This free flow of information is now unequalled by any other country on Earth. Thanks to C-Span America truly does have a network of communication which is again pioneering new grounds.

'America's Network' aids us to guard those ideals which this country was founded to protect. My choice is to applaude C-Span for supporting the right of people to participate in the American experience.

Thank you.

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Prairie Village, Kansas

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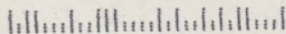
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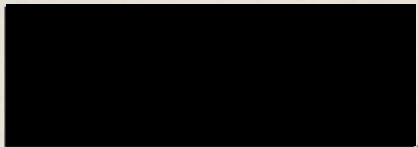
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