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Features, Essays; Precise, Irreverent, Timely

August 11, 1997

Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 North Capital
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Brian:

I write as a strong admirer who also exchanged pleasantries with you several years ago at the cafeteria in the west end of Union Station. Earlier this afternoon I was watching and listening during your conversation with Ceci Connolly (who really should consider joining the Guild).

I write, as you can see, about the formerly striking - now locked out employees of the News/Free Press, JOA of Gannett and Knight-Ridder. The Detroit Sunday Journal, mentioned by your caller from Farmington, MI, is the employees' paper - not too great a publication, I will acknowledge, but meriting my support as a union-supporting former Detroiter.

You asked the caller - but did not get an answer - why if the employers had "violated the law, they were not in jail". The answer is that after almost two years of this now approximately 30 old month strike the striking workers offered to go back to work. With a handful of exceptions the companies have refused to take them back - a lockout. Through a two stage process the NLRB has found the companies guilty of an unfair labor practice. The companies have appealed to the federal court the NLRB's seeking of an injunction. As the headline in the enclosed issue of The Journal

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states, a district court judge may rule on this within ten days.

Why The Journal's editors have, for the second week, published vast quantities of investigative notes someone stumbled on, about the disappearance of James R. Hoffa, is beyond me.

As a friend of mine might have said, C-SPAN is "the greatest thing since sliced bread".

Fraternally,

