

# ESSAY

I WATCH C-SPAN BECAUSE...as a pillar of democracy, it is: a master of education, a unique source of information about the United States and the world, and... an excellent companion for persons who CARE.

What I mentioned in the preceding paragraph should be descriptive enough of what C-SPAN really is, and more than sufficient reason, to be stated, for watching C-SPAN. However; does everybody know what democracy means? Does everybody understand the importance of education and information about the United States and the world? Does everybody care for winning a victory for humanity, no matter how small or unknown it might be? Unfortunately, nowadays, the answer to these questions is NO. Therefore people -- wherever C-SPAN can reach, or will reach -- must not only be told why one watches C-SPAN; but, must also be explained about: democracy, the United States, the world; and the importance of being an active and positive part of humanity, something which can be attained... by participating in public life through C-SPAN call-in programs, and by learning from C-SPAN in order to be motivated to do, everyday, more and more for the betterment of this world of ours.

When speaking to people about C-SPAN one must remember two statements said, by the late United States President Woodrow Wilson, back in 1916:

"America cannot be an ostrich with its head in the sand."

"The thing to do is to supply light, and not heat."

Many foreign policy mistakes, by American leaders, in the past, have been due to their having the heads in the sand; in other words, these leaders did not have the necessary knowledge of the issues, and of the characters involved, in order to make the wisest decisions. This shows that everybody, at one time or another, needs "light" from an adequate and qualified source. Although foreign policy mistakes by American leaders continue to occur in these days, fortunately, and for the last five years, the United States have had C-SPAN presenting: Close Up Foundation programs, presidential candidates and congressional debates, and many other programs, on foreign affairs and domestic issues, which have shed and continue to shed "lights" that constantly make the active and informed citizenry grow. The fact that this is taking place will lead to more intelligence at the polls, with the people of the United States being, after every C-SPAN day, better prepared to choose the leaders that will best direct the nation, and the world, to everlasting and optimum peace and progress.

C-SPAN programs are conducted within a frame of respect, professionalism, and careful analysis of issues, something which makes one, also, remember the greatest of the founders of American Colonies, William Penn, who wrote, back in 1693:

"Truth often suffers more by the heat of its defenders, than from the arguments of its opposers."

I WATCH C-SPAN BECAUSE... I like the truth, and I look for it.

THANK YOU... C-SPAN.

4-22-84



4-22-84

Dear ladies and gentlemen who work with C-SPAN:

A few words to you in my own hand-writing.

What I wrote as an essay for your 5th anniversary clearly shows how I feel about you and about the work you have done in founding C-SPAN, and in keeping it alive for the benefit of millions of people throughout the U.S. and the world. I hope that this essay of mine will help, at least a bit, to keep your spirits and morale high up so that you can continue ahead with the magnificent work you are doing. If I do not become the winner of your contest — something I want very very much to happen — I know that, at least, one important objective will be attained, and it is the following:

C-SPAN will receive a just and very much deserved recognition, and by doing so I may, indirectly, be helping many people and the world. This is like winning a small victory for humanity.

Before I finish, I will let you know two things:

1) I discovered C-SPAN back in December 1983 when I moved to a new apartment and had cable-TV installed. If I had known before about you I would have visited my



parents' home more oftenly, because they have had cable-TV since 1980, although they never watch C-SPAN, reason for this being that they do not understand English well.

Now, I watch C-SPAN almost everyday and ... I am never bored, I always have something to do, and I understand the U.S. much better now than what I did five months ago.

2) Some biographical data about myself.

I am a 34 year-old Cuban-born citizen of the United States. I am divorced and have no children. I left Cuba back in 1961 for Miami, where I lived for five months, I have also lived in La Crosse, Wisconsin (for six months), but I have lived during most of my lifetime in Puerto Rico. I hold a B.S.T.E. from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez and I am also a registered professional engineer. I work for the Trane Company in S. Rico, with whom I have worked during most of my professional years as an engineer. Trane is a multi-national air conditioning company, and the reason for the time I spent in La Crosse studying about air conditioning. There I met people from all over the U.S. and from many parts of the world.

At the present time I am planning to enter law school (during the evenings) in



C-SPAN

-3-

4-22-84

August of this year, and I am also seriously considering going to live to the continental U.S.A. in the near future.

Something about politics? You will like it, but, only a little bit. Although I do not like labels, I can tell you that I consider myself a liberal-progressive person who has sympathy for the Democratic Party. I said I do not like labels because most of all I consider myself a person who thinks and likes to do the right thing, at the right time, and in the most efficient way.

Well, enough is enough, and finishing I tell you again.. THANK YOU C-SPAN!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

P.S. My address:

[REDACTED]

SANTORCE, PR 00909

Home phone: [REDACTED]  
(evening)

TRANE phone: [REDACTED]  
(you can call this number  
in order to talk to me during daytime)