
Facsimile Cover Sheet

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Comments:

Editorial Comment

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Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33326
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January 31, 1994

C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Sirs:

During the morning of January 26, 1994, C-SPAN carried a discussion of the effects of technology on freedom. I found the program to be very interesting, as is most of the C-SPAN programming. However, I found myself outraged by a question asked by one of the reporters covering the meeting. I realize that C-SPAN is not and should not be responsible for opinions expressed, so my outrage is not at you. But since the reporter did not identify himself, you are the easiest target. Hopefully you can identify the reporter and his organization and forward my comments on to the appropriate people.

The question came during a discussion of the pros and cons of the much touted "Electronic Town Hall," and specifically with the ability of participants in the meeting to vote instantaneously by electronic means on issues under discussion. Unfortunately I was not recording the event, so I cannot quote the question exactly, but I can come very close. The reporter prefaced his question with a statement that went something like this. **"A large percentage of Americans have trouble reading and writing and, according to a recent poll conducted by my competitor, Time Magazine, a full 60% of the respondents believed in angels."** His question was to the effect, **"Do we really want people like this making decisions about how our country is run?"** I could not believe that anyone could hold himself in such high esteem. I feel certain that he must arise an hour earlier than the rest of us every morning just to allow time for standing in front of the mirror and singing **"How Great I Art."** It was very apparent that he did not include himself amongst these "huddling masses." I also cannot believe that any news organization would continue to employ anyone who holds such disdain for its customers. (I am assuming from his comment about his competitor that he also worked for a large news magazine.)

If I may, I would like to call to the attention of this "learned young man" the fact that an overwhelming majority of the men who drafted our Constitution professed and practiced a profound belief in God and, therefore, in angels. I suppose that we should throw this document out since we now realize that it was written by such "unqualified" men. I suppose we should just admit our inability to govern our own affairs and allow the

government and elitist such as him to control our lives and even our very thoughts from the womb to the tomb. Far be it from us sub-human creatures to express our opinion.

I will state that I too have some problems with the idea of instantaneous polling, but mine comes not from a lack of faith in God but from a lack of faith in men such as this young man. The opportunities for manipulation and fraud are too great. I usually find myself diametrically opposed to almost any position taken by the ACLU, but I must admit that I nearly cheered aloud when the young lady on the panel representing the ACLU responded to the question with, "**I find your remark astounding.**" The look of incredulity on her face was unmistakable. Another panel member responded by stating that he, "was not too afraid of **run-a-way democracy.**"

As I stated, I hope you can forward these comments to the appropriate organization. They are not aimed at C-SPAN. Please continue to do the excellent job of presenting current affairs in the unbiased, balanced way that C-SPAN always has. You are a breath of fresh air in today's headline hunting media jungle.

Thank You,