

From:

Castro Valley, CA 94546

April 23, 1984

I watch C-Span because it gives me the opportunity to be^a/more informed, responsible citizen. Any hour of the day or night, I can be "there" watching the people who make the news: as they speak, act, react, and gesture into history--this minute, this day, this issue.

I swallow past a patriotic lump-in-my-throat as I watch and listen to eloquent leaders and the "simple" folk discuss national and local issues. Until now, I've been unable to experience the concepts, aspects, and "facts" as they are perceived by others. With C-Span I can form my opinions based on my own evaluation.

Like a camera with a telescopic lens, C-Span allows me, the viewer, ^{to}/select the dimension and interpretation of what I see: legislators on-the-line amplifying or clarifying basic issues to the youth with Close Up; presidential candidates debates and party caucuses give me a glimpse of attitudes, mannerisms, and insight into the men and the central issues which may become party policy objectives.

Newspapers and Electronic news on other channels provide spot news. It is up to the consumer of quick

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information to investigate, question, and interpret this spot news based on his own indepth analysis. C-Span provides the avenue for such investigation-- for such questioning. C-Span does not offer parallel concepts disguised as two-sides of an issue as other news services often do.

"Americans Network" is indeed a network of Americans. No where else does the electronic medium provide an opportunity to question the newsmakers, to challenge the status quo, or to receive definitive answers to national issues.

The C-Span camera focuses on America's heart-beat--the pulse of national problems, human dilemma and emotional limitation.

When I watch C-Span I expect to see the throb of intense concern of the people who will be affected by those who effect the happening--political speech making in congress, prosecution and defense during a trial, and debates on justice and ethical standards.

Gatekeepers have no place on C-Span. The American public, like the media, have the right to be a watchdog of the government. Before C-Span I was less informed and, generally speaking, a passive participant in news-making agenda. Now, I can do my part and act on what I see and hear.

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