Punta Gorda, FL 33950 October 8, 1993

Mr. Brian Lamb C-SPAN 400 North Capitol Street, N.W. #650 Washington, DC 2001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I've decided it's futile trying to reach you during one of your call-in shows - may I suggest the installation of a FAX machine. A connection was recently made - for the first time in who knows how many years of trying - but while I was waiting the line went dead. I'm told by people familiar with computerized telephone equipment that in situations such as that the problem usually lies within the subscribers' system.

Like many of your callers, I want to thank you for the genius that went into the development of what we now know as C-SPAN. Someday you will be rewarded for your efforts with a Pulitzer Prize in journalism. Your non-partisan demeanor on the air is exemplary - after all these years I'm still not sure whether your a Democrat or a Republican, although I suspect the latter.

Regarding the current topic of debate - Somalia, and the horrific scenes of our dead soldiers being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu - and the purpose of my recent call. There have been many comparisons between Somalia and Vietnam, but the one no one has mentioned is the fact that our current Secretary of Defense was an aide to Robert McNamara when the latter was attempting to micro manage the war in Vietnam from his desk in Washington. From where I sit the exact same thing is happening all over again, and it's obvious Mr. Aspin, with all his brilliance, hasn't learned a thing. What's that famous quote, "If we don't learn from the past we're bound to repeat it." I have a son in Army ROTC and I have cautioned him about the acceptance of a related scholarship, based primarily on my perceived ineptness of the current administrations' handling of foreign policy and military affairs. For example, the administration has known of General Powell's intention to retire for nine months and his chosen replacement is still on duty in Europe.

Sincerely yours,

Punta Gorda, FL 33950





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