

[REDACTED]
Watertown, SD. 57201
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C-Span
400 N. Capital St. NW.
Suite 650
Washington, DC. 20001

Weaver

Dear C-Span Hosts

I can't afford to call you, or communicate with you in any of the ways you mention on your shows, so I "broke" out my faithful typewriter, and am contacting you in the "old fashioned" way.

I have opinions on several of the topics discussed on your programs.

1. ABORTION the government shouldn't be involved, but any woman that wants an abortion should be able to obtain one, without a waiting period, or being harassed by pro-lifers. I'm not saying there should be a law making it legal--but it shouldn't be illegal either, so that women have to get back alley abortions. Abortions have been around for years and always will be. The people that talk about how many abortions are performed every year don't take into consideration that before Roe-vs-Wade there was no way to count the number performed in a year.
2. MINIMUM WAGE a raise would be nice, but that still wouldn't be a livable wage--in this part of the country most of the minimum wage jobs are part time(25 or less hours per week.) These jobs are also ones that rotate days and hours on a weekly basis, so that makes it so that a person can't work two or more jobs at a time, in order to make a living wage.
3. WELFARE REFORM Where to begin--after listening to your call in programs, I can't believe that there are so many mean-spirited, cold hearted comfortably well off people in America. I do agree with some things. A. Mothers under the age of 18 should be cut completely off all welfare programs. If this happened it would drastically cut the number of teen pregnancies because there would either be a good old fashioned shot-gun wedding or the teen age girls parents would end up supporting the girl and the baby.

B. There should be some kind of cash stipend for middle aged people who are unable to find employment. People need more than food stamps and rent assistance to live.

4. SOCIAL SECURITY, people with pensions and other income over a certain limit should not get Social Security. This might have to be done on state by state basis, because in my area one person can live quite comfortably off \$1200 yearly. This might mean that they would have to quit traveling so much, doing so much recreational things, and having as nice cars and clothes, etc. I have one elderly neighbor lady(75 years) who says she has a little over \$1000 a month to live off, and she never eats at home, is always going on trips(3-4 a year) this winter she bought a leather coat(wouldn't buy a full length one for \$129, at the local Wal-Mart because they were too cheap--she went to another town and bought a 3/4 length on on sale for "a lot more."
5. HEALTH CARE there should be health care for every body. Medicare doesn't do very well. My 86 year old Dad spends \$300 a month on medicine just to stay alive. This amounts to half of his SS check. Being unemployed and under retirement age, I have no way at all of going to a Doctor.
6. SCHOOL LUNCHES, WIC, AND FOOD STAMPS We have all heard of grants being given to states for certain purposes and the money ends up getting used for other things. WIC, the amount given to people could be cut. There is no reason for a woman that has a miscarriage to receive WIC for a few months after the miscarriage. Families with children don't have to receive as much as they do--I know many families that get so many WIC benefits that they can't begin to use them all in one month. Pre-school age kid refuse to eat the specified cereals, so they either get given or thrown away. These families also don't use all of the milk, juice, peanut butter, etc. that they receive--which tells me that they are receiving too much. FOOD STAMPS, one way that they could cut back here would be to decrease the bureaucracy. The first time I received food stamps I didn't have to report my income on a monthly basis, but shortly after that they switched to a monthly reporting basis, so that if some person had slightly too much income, they wouldn't get a couple dollars too much in food stamps. BUT how much does it cost to do this extra paper work.

All-in-all before they cut food stamps, etc. They have to get more jobs and decent paying jobs. They talk about education and training--my problem seems to be that I am over educated and under experienced. I taught school back in the '60s when you could teach el. ed. in South Dakota with 2 years of college. I taught for 2 years and that told me that I wasn't meant to be a teacher, and I quit to raise my family. After 19 years of marriage I was kicked out and had to find my first job, and that turned out to be in a factory. I worked there for 2½ years and lost that job due to down-sizing. After not being able to find anything but temporary jobs for 1½ years I decided to attend a vocational school to get training for a job. I took a 2 year Basic/Legal Secretary course, with the help of grants and GSL. Since graduating in 1990, I still have been unable to find anything but temporary jobs. Needless to say I am in default on my school loans. I don't understand this, because Penns. Higher Education Association told me that there were several reasons that these loans could be written off, among them was failure find employment in the field that I trained in, so I applied for that and was turned down, because I don't qualify, and I have not obtained even a Temporary Secretarial Position.

I am almost 55 years old, and live on food stamps and rent assistance. My 26 year old mentally disabled daughter is supporting me with her SSI income. In order to keep my food stamps, I have to meet different requirements such as attend job search seminars, do active work search, and currently I am doing community service work at the Salvation Army Thrift Store, at 80 hours a month. This is supposed to give me training for a job, well I learned how to hang clothes, etc. when I was doing temp work at the Target and Wal Mart Stores. But my Job Service Rep. only wants to place people at the Salvation Army. My opinion is that she knows they can use all the help they can get, so why call any place else.

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas I took a temporary job, and that affected my food stamps for the month of February--now that is ridiculous.

I wish businesses would have apprenticeship programs, that when a person completed the apprenticeship program they would be given a job at higher pay.

I could go on, but I've said enough.

