

March 10, 1994

Dear Sirs:

We are a C-Span family in Houston, Texas. I am a housewife/political activist. C-Span is my window to Washington. And, now, TCI, my cable company is restricting my viewing to 12 hours a day! C-Span shares a channel with AMC.

This onslaught started a few months ago as TCI reacted to the legislation from Washington. The channels are being eaten by local broadcast stations that must be broadcast. They made an announcement by mail that C-Span would be dropped. There was an outpouring of local rage. So, TCI backtracked. They sent the subscribers a survey. We were told to rate the stations as to what we wanted chopped first. They were surprised when 30% of the subscribers responded to the survey. They also said that C-Span could not be dropped because of contractual and business obligations. This is the list to be dropped by ranking starting with the first:

- 1.) EWTN/TBN (Religious)
- 2.) BET (Black Entertainment Television)
- 3.) MTV (Music Television)
- 4.) TNN (The Nashville Network)
- 5.) NICK (Nickelodeon)
- 6.) TWC (The Weather Channel)
- 7.) CNN2 (CNN Headline News)
- 8.) FAM (The Family Channel)
- 9.) LIFE (Lifetime)
- 10.) WTBS (Atlanta Superstation)
- 11.) WGN (Chicago Superstation)
- 12.) HSE (Home Sports Entertainment)

The local TCI people responded to the survey and planned to drop EWTN and BET. The dropping of BET met with resistance. It is the only Black network and I can understand their displeasure. After all, three of the channels eating up channel slots are Hispanic stations! And, also I've heard that TCI is financially involved with BET. In reaction to this they reduced C-Span to only half a day.

We called our local TCI office. They were very helpful. They also said that the decision to cut C-Span came from a source higher than the local office. So, we called the main office of TCI. We expressed our extreme displeasure at losing hours of C-Span. We agreed with them that BET needs to be supported by the local market, but we also raised the point that C-Span covers Black issues. We also raised the point that TCI does contribute to C-Span. And, they do get their profits from our payment of the cable bill. They agreed to take another look at the situation. As it stands we are still reduced to old movies droning on through the night.

C-Span effects our lives. We are homeschooling our oldest son. I watched the debate on the House floor about HR6. I saw democracy in action as they reacted to the pressure from

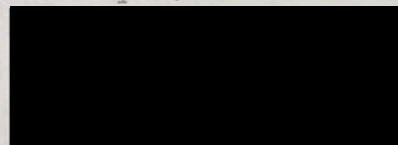


homeschoolers. And, by watching I can set my agenda on who to lobby for my rights.

I am prepared to start a local campaign to put pressure on TCI. I am not shy about writing letters to express my views and my displeasure. I also plan to use my modem to alert the Houston cable population about the need to fight for C-Span. We have a large BBS community that is attune to politics. I'm contacting you so that I can get to the facts. I need all the information you can send me about legislation effecting the broadcast of C-Span. I realize that C-Span is losing spots across the nation and would appreciate any tips from other people that have fought to see C-Span.

And, finally, I wish to thank all of you that make C-Span work. You have become an American Institution. You are important to millions of Americans. Now, it is time for us to speak out and support your efforts.

Thank you,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Houston, Texas 77075

A black rectangular redaction box covering the address line below the city and state.