

[REDACTED]
Nashville, TN 37205
May 18, 1993

Mr. Brian Lamb
President and CEO
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

"Conventional wisdom" says that Clinton's proposed increase in the tax on the income from Social Security received by retirees will affect only "wealthy" recipients.

But no newscaster, no Congressman, no guest on your call-in shows, understands either the tax or the increase!

One's tax is presently calculated on the total of other income plus one-half of the Social Security benefits, if the total is \$25,000 for single taxpayers. For example, if one's other income is \$20,000 and one receives \$10,000 from Social Security, under current law, if he is single, he must now add \$5,000 to his other income and becomes eligible for a tax on an income of \$25,000. There is no way that this can strike me as a "wealthy" recipient. Commentators seem to think that one's outside income must be \$25,000 and up (if single) before he is taxed at all on Social Security benefits -- even that is hardly wealthy these days.

Clinton's proposed change will add 85 per cent (instead of 50 per cent) of one's Social Security income to other income and tax the total if it is over \$25,000 (for single individuals). So an individual would have to add 85 per cent of \$10,000 (\$8,500) in Social Security benefits to his taxable income if his other income is as much \$16,500. Now that's some definition of a "wealthy recipient".

It is alarming that the Congress does not seem to know what it may really be doing.

Perhaps you can find a guest who understands and will clarify for the public. Meanwhile, my admiration for the work you are doing.

Sincerely,

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