

April 16, 1984

I WATCH C-SPAN BECAUSE - - -

I have recently retired and become acquainted with C-SPAN. Before I retired, I was warned to become involved in activities that would tend to keep me intellectually alert. C-SPAN affords a convenient and entertaining formula that helps to keep me mentally alert and interested in "what's happening" on a broad front. I look forward to C-SPAN programs. I try to observe the schedule announcement each morning so that I can choose which items I feel I cannot afford to miss--I'd like to see them all.

The C-SPAN format is particularly attractive to me because it combines legislative proceedings and other public forums into what almost amounts to a continuous national town-meeting. C-SPAN's agenda conveys political as well as general information pertaining to public affairs on a broad base not otherwise easily available to an average citizen.

I am fascinated by convenient access to informed commentators representing high levels of government, business and industry, information media, as well as formal proceedings of the U. S. House of Representatives, Senate and House hearings, and other important public meetings. Instead of being familiar only with the Congressional representatives of my State and district, I am now becoming more aware of Senators and Representatives throughout the nation. Their points of view reflect a cross-section of interests, views, and concerns on national matters that I would not otherwise find it easy to learn about. The Congressional proceedings show the parliamentary processes involved and help to broaden the C-SPAN observer's comprehension of issues raised by legislation under consideration.

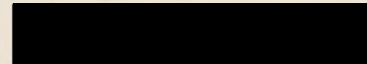
Other customary information sources are still important to me, but being able to listen to and observe through C-SPAN the persons who make news and to follow their immediate responses to questions provides me with a much more authentic portrayal of their attitudes, understanding, and credibility. The wealth of information and opportunity for personal observation afforded by C-SPAN furnishes the kind of background needed to understand critical issues and political strategy that is hard to come by through other means.

I consider C-SPAN to be a veritable encyclopedia of information on public affairs. It opens the door to the activities of the nation and gives me an opportunity to hear what other citizens think during call-in sessions. C-SPAN programs are a boon to the public interest at all levels of government. They educate and stimulate citizens about their respective governments. The more people know about law and government and their administration, the better they will be able to understand and discharge the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.

In short, I watch C-SPAN because I am delighted with its offerings. It provides me with a constructive, informative, and entertaining alternative to routine general television and radio programming (riddled with commercial advertising, mostly of mediocre quality). C-SPAN is the best single item on the TV cable system. I think C-SPAN is opening a new dimension of life for those who have time to watch the nation at work.

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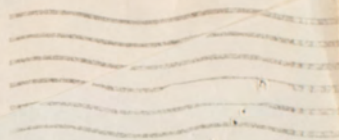


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