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No. Attleboro, Mass. 02760
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C-Span
Suite 155
400 North Capital St.
Washington, D.C. 20001

I watch C-Span because it is the best politically informative program on television. C-Span is complete and thorough. Congressional hearings, for instance, are seen in their entirety. C-Span is inherently unbiased. All statements are in context; all details are provided, whereas other media selectively choose which information reaches the reader or viewer. C-Span has no slanting of the news.

Whereas most media provides only glimpses of the powers behind the scene, C-Span shows us the complete array of people that make our system work. This array consists of Congressional and Executive aides, lobbyists, expert witnesses, and public interest group spokespersons. They are shown in a formal setting at hearings, where their remarks are largely prepared. Importantly, C-Span provides an informal airing of their views through C-Span interviews.

C-Span interviews are keenly interesting. Persons of all rank in government can state their official views, but as the nationwide call-ins are taken, the interviewees must embellish and explain their stance under test from the full spectrum of political positions. In addition to providing a fuller description of the interviewee's views, the C-Span process shows our people in government in a human light. It is important to realize that our people in government are not abstract entities sitting at the Capital making a stream of concrete, completely rational decisions with a superior knowledge of what is good for us. As we see them more as people like ourselves, with occasional foibles and misses, and a sense of humor, we realize that the people in government need us to help.

Indeed, I genuinely believe that our Congressmen and most bureaucrats sincerely want to serve their constituents and country in the best manner possible. Our role as citizens is to be informed of the matters going on in Washington and to communicate our opinions to them. C-Span plays a critical role. It constantly shows the citizens what's happening. It stimulates the watcher to either call-in or, as I have on several occasions, write-in to Congress. By making the process somewhat interactive, C-Span creates a momentum that maintains interest.

I will continue to watch C-Span. Both socially and for career growth, it has helped me personally by making me better informed and knowledgeable. Since I believe that each citizen has a responsibility to help govern in a democracy, I encourage friends and my children to watch C-Span.

Sincerely,

