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Spokane, Wa 99203

JUN 06 REC'D

May 28, 1990

Brian Lamb, Host of C-Span "Call-In Program"
400 North Capitol Street N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

JUN 12 ANS'D

Dear Brian:

Almost every person who calls in to your program says the same thing. "I sure do enjoy your program." The manner in which you make everyone feel at ease without a glint of any expression of surprise or arrogance in your demeanor is commendable.

Mine is a simple question, one I am sure you can deal with. Why can we not try to stimulate the media, both electronic and print, to lay enough of a base of information to not mislead?

EXAMPLE: "The cost of the Savings and Loan catastophe....500 billion...."

Some reporting went further indicating the cost "500 billion" including wording which told the viewer/reader that it would attain this figure "over thirty years".

The present value of 500 billion over thirty years could still be further defined and make a big difference in it's true cost. The present value of this sum could be as low as about 17 billion depending on rates of interest and how paid etc.

If "responsible journalism" is to have meaning we know there is no way of knowing (in this example/instance) "cost" until other ingredients are added. Does this not make each of those researching, reporting and editing material a participant in "misleading" the public?

FURTHER: Additional research might tell us projected cost does (or does not) include final figures after considering how the remainder will be affected following liquidation of all resources. There have been instances of minimal (a small percentage) recovery in cases of this sort and as well occasionally substantial recovery occurs. So what if the Resolution Trust Corporation is able to recover thirty or seventy cents on the dollar?

ADDITIONALLY: The blame is all and well, but consider... 1. The capitalist system is one of *"risk vs reward"*. 2. The professionals in the Appraisal field rarely agree as to value. 3. Entrepreneurs' risk, in part, is the ever changing economy. Look what happened to the original Zeckendorf (of New York) and to a former Secretary of the Treasury and presidential candidate John Connolly. 4. "The Government" is just as apt to be to blame for such problems as are the current list of scapegoats. 5. That is not to say there are no scoundrels in the present chase.

A perspective reflecting the true basics of the system to the level of understanding of the audience should be included in "responsible journalism"...do you agree? This writer is well aware what my critique would do to the "30 second sound bite".

Very truly yours,

[redacted]

P.S. If this subject is dealt with on the air could I please be advised in advance? Please forgive me, I sent the message erroneously addressed to CNN, sorry!