

November 11, 1991

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Mr. Brian Lamb,

I have been a C-SPAN viewer for many years now. Although I probably have the same praises and complaints, both major and minor as the average C-SPAN viewer, I'll overlook them and go directly to the two compliments I have, and the one request.

First, I am 30 years old, and have been an avid TV viewer since my days in the crib. This may sound over stated, but I feel that Booknotes is the best program TV has yet to produce. First I appreciate the simple black background - no unread books or designer plant pots. More significant is the way you, Brian, ask a question, then allow the guest to take a long journey to the source of his/her interest in the specific information, and weave a thorough story back to the answer. This is unique. The answer is then astonishingly clear and complete. Absolutely no one from Mike Douglas to Johnny Carson, Dick Cavett to Phil Donahue, or the supposedly thorough guys at 60 Minutes allow such complete answers. Don't change the method!!

Second, C-span's coverage of Senate Subcommittee hearings - such as those concerning cable TV and the NEA, not only let me see how our laws are formed, but also let me see who is testifying and who is listening - and making the judgements about our laws. I feel that these subcommittee hearing are the most powerful part of today's government.

Now. I am a songwriter, record producer, Audio Engineer, etc.. and in the last ten years there have been numerous hearings on copyright law, songwriter's Royalty rates, R-DAT recorders, and censorship - all crucial and very immediate to my daily work. However, I have yet to see any of these hearings on C-SPAN. I urge you to begin inclusion of these hearings into your programming, not just for those of us directly affected, but for the average citizen - because these are First Amendment issues, and today such issues are beginning to affect us all. I don't think that C-SPAN need air every politician's rubber-chicken luncheon, nor speeches by college professors and newspaper columnists. These are mostly photo-opportunities and not really worthy of C-SPAN coverage. Please use some of this time to program the afore-mentioned hearings.

To end on a nice note, all the C-SPAN on-air people are great!
Thank you for your time and consideration

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