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I watch C-Span because it is a powerful mental stimulant and so addictive that it ought to be X-rated. It is turning me into a political animal and destroying my most cherished biases, but I crave it anyway. It has made me a pusher, as I try to get everyone I know hooked on C-Span. I tell them that a whole spectrum of our national political life, from tragedy to comedy, glows forth from C-Span twenty four hours a day. In their brilliance, mediocrity or inanity, the people who shape or hope to shape our lives are exposed by your candid programs.

C-Span is a forum for every political persuasion from socialism to anarchy, yet it makes no statement of its own, takes no sides. The call-ins give anyone a chance to speak on varied subjects and to express any viewpoint. This is the zenith of free speech.

A firsthand education, not only in political science, but in scores of other subjects is what draws me to C-Span. When the House is in session, I watch it from the prayer to the daily speech of Gonzales of Texas. I get mad at him when he runs over the time for my afternoon call-in. I've never called in, because I'm afraid I'll miss something more important than what I have to say; and almost always someone says what I am thinking, anyway. I enjoy watching the votes being electronically tallied. I love the music. I get caught up in the debates and clap or boo, as though it were a great circus. I am getting to know many of the performers. Some day, millions of Americans and I may be better informed on a greater variety of the issues than are our representatives, thanks to C-Span. Many may run for office because of your good work.

There is a good deal of comic relief on C-Span, funnier because it is unexpected. There is occasional buffoonery in the House (how I miss Rousselot of California); Jim Boren was great. I've watched "The Capitol Steps" twice. There are some light moments even during subcommittee hearings.

C-Span provides me the stimuli to use my own brain power, experience, education and common sense to search for possible answers to some of the problems that confront our leaders. Before long, I may be out marching for causes I never dreamed about before I got hooked on C-Span.

Sincerely yours,

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