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Brian Lamb
C-Span
400 North Capital Street
Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

February 21, 2005

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I am an admirer of your work at C-Span, and it pains me somewhat to write this letter, especially as I expect that you will decline to reply as you often do on air to critics, most, if not all of whom, are, I will agree, intemperate, uninformed and often irrational. I do not think that my complaint is of like tenor.

Last week, you had Ann Coulter on as your guest. I am someone who considered himself a conservative before she was ever born; but I must confess to finding most of her commentary odious. In the event, I was able to get through to the program, and, responding to her opening diatribe against Ward Churchill, I asked her whether someone who called for the forced conversion to Christianity of the Moslems of the Middle East, on pain of death (as she had done), or who had spoken about the decimation of the American Indian as the natural and understandable result of the superiority of white Europeans (as had Winston Churchill) [the prime minister, not the American author] should be permitted to teach at an American university. This was a rather specific question, which she failed completely to answer, responding with some non-sequitor about how the American government had shortly come around to see things her way following September 11 – whatever that means. You did not follow up with her, but let her get away with this idiotic non-response. I probably would not have troubled to write if that was all that had happened on the show, but thereafter she seemed to take over your role, mockingly announcing which callers would be allowed to put questions to her. I have never watched another guest on your program who was allowed to behave with such hauteur and, believe me, her charm does not outweigh her rudeness. Many critical callers were, as she complained, incapable of making focused comments, but when I did so, you gave her a completely free pass. She should not have been allowed to get off so readily with her non-answer. (By the way, if you ever watch her on Fox TV, you will see that she regularly responds to fact-based questions in the manner in which she responded to mine

– another reason why she should not be taken seriously, and is not entitled to appear on serious programs such as yours.)

I would respectfully suggest that you allow Ward Churchill to appear on your program, since I have followed his story in some detail, and I think that he has been uniformly misinterpreted. Too many Americans, some of importance, on the other side of the debate over American attitudes towards and involvement in the Middle East have been allowed, without challenge, wide media access where they have made comments whose import is at least as atrocious as that imputed to Mr. Churchill's.

