

S-WJ

03-21-96

Wintersville, OH 43952

To: C-SPAN

From:

Wintersville - OH.

Disabled and pretty much home-bound, am an enthusiastic addict of NBC Nightly News & C-SPAN (wish I could afford to get C-SPAN II, too!). Excellent programming!

But, I am a bit confused and would, somewhere along the line, like/appreciate a few questions answered.

1. I thought suit lapel decorations, pins, emblems, etc. were taboo. We're seeing more and more of them.
2. Don't understand the caption (on a ^{House} vote) "Amendment Agreeing to the Amendment."
3. When a House vote is captioned for whatever length of time, I don't understand the categories "PRES" and "NV" (the latter, I think, is a no vote or not present to vote?). Too, in a matter of minutes, the House can go from nearly empty to a maddening throng, at the most unusual hours. These people can't just be sitting in their offices "waiting"?
4. Who are all those people on the two ^{semi-}decks surrounding the current chairperson or speaker pro-tem? And waiting off to the sides or wings?
5. During a vote, even if the chamber is nearly empty, and even if it's a minor vote, nearly every member responds. Is this a "remote" process? The House Clerk must have a role in this process; no wonder they never smile.

(cont.)

(chaplain)

6. At every opening session, there's a "minister of god" to admonish the body. So much for church and state separation, school prayer, etc., etc., etc. And then the fracas erupts.

and voting

7. The chair^v never seems to be quite in sync. with C-SPAN's captioned "clock." Who actually owns, runs and pays for this show?

8. How often does the House carpeting and that (well beaten and surely worn) gavel have to be replaced?

Some of these, and the following, may be more appropriate for the morning program:

9. In the latest race for the presidency - on the Republican side - I think we're nominating, if not electing, a Vice-President; not a President. Dole's selection of a running mate will no doubt seal his fate. Hopefully, it won't be Newt, Dick (Armey) OR (our own) George Voinovich! Colin Powell might do nicely or so might Steve Forbes.

