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cc: T. Murphy ✓

January 22, 1991

Conyers, GA 30207

C-SPAN
400 North Capitol St. NW
(Suite 650)
Washington, DC 20001

FEB 5 AM '91

Attn: Mr. Brian Lamb:

Thanks again to all of C-SPAN staff for your continuing excellent coverage of the many facets of the Gulf war! I am not one of those who thinks that, in some way, the "media" (which seems by some to equate with "the traitors") is in any way skewing the news or "aiding the enemy. But never underestimate the power of ignorance! (Did you notice that CNN now has decided to prefix satellite weather views with what I'd call an "apology" saying that they're not giving away "secret" weather info?) So, to C-SPAN I say "keep on keepin' on", and thanks again!

Not having been able (again) to get on the air while discussion was under way, let me "make a couple of points" as we viewers are fond of saying:

A> I think you did the correct thing in deciding to cover the anti-war rally in Lafayette park the other day. I would also encourage your TOP MANAGEMENT to file some sort of formal protest with the National Park TOP MANAGEMENT, (Mr. Lujan, et al?). To me, as a viewer, it seemed that C-SPAN was the focus of an "official" government attempt to make your coverage as difficult as possible, but stopping short of censorship. Can you comment on that?

B) Along the same lines, I heard one caller complain that the rally was going to cost the park service something like \$20,000 in crowd control, etc. ! Oh, how I wanted to remind all of the audience that JUST ONE OF THOSE RAYTHEON-MADE "PATRIOT" MISSILES AT \$1 MILLION EACH, WOULD PAY FOR THE PEACE RALLY, PLUS MANY OTHER NEEDS HERE IN THE U.S.!

C) Interesting, isn't it, how "Madison-Avenue" jargon from the "defense" industry gets injected even into our "war talk"? Examples: THEY have "SCUDS", which sounds like something you'd cough up and spit out, if you had a cold! Ugh! On the other hand, WE have "PATRIOTS" or "SCUD-BUSTERS" which can blast 'em out of the sky!

Or, WE have "TOMAHAWKS", which as everybody knows from Indian-fightin' days, are deadly to enemies!

THEY have "MIGS", having sort of a "JAPS" connotation, added to the bothersome Russian bear image!

WE have "HELL-CATS" or "COBRAS" or friendly, lumbering "JOLLY GREEN GIANTS"!

Not only that, our planes carry not bombs or missiles, but "assets" to drop or shoot at "them"! Like "SIDEWINDERS", or "HELLFIRE" rockets, which make a "beautiful display" when they hit the target.

Or how about those euphemisms (oxymoron?) like "carpet bombing" or the one that Representative James Traficant turned up.. orders for "Zipper-closed plastic remains pouches", or words close to that! Sickening, isn't it?

One more, then I'll quit..

D) At least one national columnist has remarked on something that I noticed: It was Sunday, the day after the President got Congressional OK to "use the military option" (another euphemism) IF ALL DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS FAILED.

Did Mr. Bush make some tries (by phone, for example) to get through to Saddam Hussein? Nope! As far as I can tell, he and Barbara decided to invite (by phone?) ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER and family up to Camp David for some sledding!

Never mind that the Soviets were moving in Lithuania, or that prayers for peace or vigils against the turn toward war were going on, or that families were at airports or staging areas to say "farewell" to their service people going to the Gulf! I guess that no one the Bushs knew was shipping out that Sunday!

I do not think that six hours of "ultimatum-style diplomacy should have thrown the balance in favor of WAR!

Please continue your excellent, even-handed programming. One thought: To get more of a cross-section of the nation, as viewers call in, would it be possible to divide the U.S. (maybe I should say, the world!) into ten or twenty zones, and use some kind of "rotation system" to allow people on the air? For example, I noticed the other day, what seemed to be an unusual number of callers on the air, who were in the San Deigo area.

Anything like that feasible, such as using Zip codes as a guide for allowing people on the air?

Sincerely,

