

13 November 1992

Brian Lamb/Terence Murphy
C-SPAN - Suite 650 -
400 No. Capitol St.,
Washington, DC 20001

re: Making a Good Service
Better

Dear Directors:

Now that we are watching the overdue demise of a very nasty and untreatable system, the horror story I call "our patho-monopolistic journalism at the speed of light" (ABC, CBS and NBC)---helped along mightily by your efforts which allow access and accountability in assessing the governing process--- I offer an idea whose time surely has come: Allowing a series of actual debates by teams chosen by the combatants themselves, to the end of letting an information-starved electorate learn that evidence never offered during the campaigning. I also dub these the "silent issues."

Although it reached a high (or low) point in 1988, the same blueprint obtained in 1992, regarding a long-standing # (since about 1960) desideratum of politicians on both the Left and Right. I refer to domestic disarmament, wrongly called gun control. Michael Dukakis undoubtedly still opts for a totally-controlled society re small arms, as he stated to a small faction in 1986. That position was never ever allowed airtime, in my monitoring, when Dukakis made his run. A singular exception? No, for an identical condition prevailed this year; and, only the linear mode of pressdom got it out to specific audiences. I find that duality not only mildly scary, but reinforcing of a basic tenet fast becoming standard with millions, i.e., if an issue is of a highly-charged emotional nature to the bulk of the mainline press en toto, and covering it will damage the liberal-leftist candidate, that issue will be suppressed rather than exposed. In a modestly free society, this is objectionable. In ours it is a distinct and malodorous event.

Voila! A cure is at hand. In its fine style, C-SPAN can issue invitations to all those wishing to compete in the huge social confrontation over federal firearms expropriation by federal ukase-dicta; those teams proffered will be allowed your usual dignified and respected format of fairness and non-interference. Because the issue affects so many millions--- literally all of us---violent crime by gun, our culture, the Constitutions (U.S. and State) can then be examined in a way alien to the departing journaloids of the air/cable. (contd)

2. C-SPAN

Montesquieu said that the essential element of democracy is virtue. Surely, virtue as we would want it, is not at work today for us, especially in Big Media. This may well be why every other caller-in to C-SPAN begins with profuse praise before he or she speaks to a point! Paying to be heard is scary, also. Be glad your group is the wedge portending better times presswise.

A suggestion, if I may, as to make-up of the teams.

The National Rifle Association of America, Inc., nation's oldest and largest sportspersons' faction, a stout defender of legitimate small arms keeping by the lawful, and, a champion of civil rights (gun control is white man's law, did you know? See Wm. R. Tonso, "Gun Control: White Man's Law," Reason for Dec., 1985) is an obvious choice to be contacted initially on behalf of one faction. There is also the Second Amendment Foundation, 12500 NE Tenth Pl., Bellevue, WA 98005, another leader of the pro-Second Amendment activists. Many experts of this persuasion are in both camps, incidentally; so, no favoritism can be claimed. Other smaller organizations exist. I can even offer a novel one, viz., Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, Aaron Zelman, Director, at 2872 So. Wentworth, Milwaukee, WI 53207.

In opposition, let us think about those most vocal ones clamoring for police state gun legislation (no other way to describe it): George F. Will of ABC-TV and Newsweek; Michael Gartner of NBC-TV News; Richard Reeves, Universal Press Syndicate (his advocacy reaches new dimensions); Barbara Reynolds of USA TODAY; and, naturally, Sarah Brady of Handgun Control, Inc.

By the way, Professor Gary Kleck of Florida State University has published a landmark work of criminology, relegating its predecessors to obsolescence: POINT BLANK: Guns and Violence in America (Aldine de Gruyter, Hawthorne, NY, 1991). Your excellent "Booknotes" series might consider this expert sometime soon, granted your feeling for the superior. Cordially,

cc: NRA/SAF
Others mentioned uncopied, for most know
of this position only C-SPAN can fulfill.

Libertarian
Tulsa, OK

[REDACTED]
Tulsa, OK 74119



Brian Lamb/Terence Murphy
C-SPAN - Suite 650 -
400 No. Capitol St.,
Washington, D.C. 20001

(ATTN: "BOOKNOTES"
PRODUCER

