

April 16, 1984

Here is my entry for your contest.

I watch C-SPAN because of my desire to sharpen my awareness and understanding of the complex issues facing this nation, the methods by which our leaders are enhancing the United States' position in the world, and as indicated by the vehemence of the speakers, how strongly they are committed to maintaining a strong but fair government. This vehemence cannot be reflected in an excerpt of a speech given by a member of the House of Representatives and which appears on page 16 of the daily newspaper along with a possibly biased interpretation by the newspaper reporter who wrote the article. Nor can this vehemence manifest itself when an excerpt is shown on the 6:00 p.m. local news station, along with a commentary by the newscaster and followed by sports and weather.

Few Americans would sit down and read an entire transcript of a proceeding aired on C-SPAN. However, viewing the discussions of such relevant topics and events as can be seen regularly on C-SPAN evokes a feeling of well-being in knowing that our system of free speech is working. It is not that I think the American people are too apathetic to devote time to reading and rating viewpoints of elected officials and others involved in the welfare of this nation. On a local level, it may not be convenient for me to

attend a forum being held in my community, and I appreciate the opportunity to view it on C-SPAN at a time more convenient to me.

Watching C-SPAN provides greater emotional impact and understanding of the issues, events and people. Where else but in America can people witness their government in action? And who else but C-SPAN provides all this action right in our own living rooms?

SUBMITTED BY:



St. Louis, Missouri 63136

