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editing / writing

April 20, 1998

Program Director
C-Span
400 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C.

Dear Program Director:

I bow to none in my admiration of your accomplishments in covering the chaotic Washington scene, but could you just once in awhile put someone on Washington Journal who might conceivably be expected to have a less than derogatory perspective on President Clinton and the Democratic Party?

When you juxtapose a staunch, far-right conservative against a rabid, far-left liberal there's no way Clinton is going to get anything approaching a fair shake. [In fact, it appears that these two poles of ideology very often seem to be in complete agreement on a range of issues.]

It's all very well and good to say callers balance the equation, but all you get from callers [mostly right-wingers or non-Clinton-supporting Democrats] is mainly misinformation, allegations, rumors, misguided opinion, and prejudice.

It would be nice, once in awhile, to hear some informed, intelligent defense of Clinton's thinking and policies. Sure, you run his speeches, briefings, etc. - as you do all the Republican speeches and events. However, while there are all kinds of Republican defenders and apologists on Washington Journal, it is a rare show, indeed, where a defender of Clinton appears.

I suppose it is practically impossible to get nonpartisan guests who can calmly and knowledgeably discuss the pros and cons of an issue, presenting both sides with solid, well-founded facts.

S-WJ

I appreciate the difficulties you face in trying to present balance, and I appreciate the various strategies you have introduced to try to implement this goal. Actually, I get a chuckle from all the angry Republicans who protest so vociferously about the unfairness of your allocation of call-in phone numbers.

Despite my dismay over the, I suppose, inevitable slant of Washington Journal, I repeat I have the utmost admiration for C-Span and all its magnificent work.

Sincerely yours,

