

[REDACTED]
Wausau, Wi 54401
August 5, 1992

C-SPAN
Suite 650
400 N. Capitol St.
Washington, D. C. 20001

Attn: Brian Lamb

Dear Brian:

As an avid watcher of C-SPAN, here are some suggestions and constructive criticisms I'd like to make.

First the suggestion. This is in regard to the televising of the House proceedings. When a vote is being taken, you show a graphic relating to the number voting aye, nay, and not voting, by party. However, I never know how my particular representative voted.

It would be great if you could show a graphic on the screen as to how each house member voted. It could be by state, then in order by the representative's last name. Since the vote is by electronic device, the information is available.

Often times after a heated debate, I wonder how my representative Dave Obey has voted. Some of the honorables have been know to speak one way on the floor and vote another way. There is no easy way to find out how they voted, since the local Gannett paper, with their abbreviated coverage, does not publish votes except on a few issues.

Now for the constructive criticism relating to your call in shows. I feel you should be a little tougher on your guests when they answer questions. For example, you had a newsman with a French name (I don't recall his name) as a guest. I think he was a financial writer with a New York newspaper.

Someone called with a hardball question near the end of the program asking why the nation's financial writers didn't warn the public of what was going on with pension raids, takeovers resulting in job loss etc, probably referring to the information in the book, "America, What Went Wrong".

It was an excellent question but the newsman gave a glib answer not even relating to the question and you immediately took the next call. That's one time I thought you should have pressed harder for your guest to answer the question.

Another example relates to a call in show handled by Kathy Buckley who had Pat Schroeder as a guest. Some one called in and labeled Ms. Schroeder a liberal and asked

.. how she was going to pay for the social programs she supported. Ms. Schroeder became extremely defensive, described all the programs she was in favor of, and completely ignored how they would paid for, which was the question. No follow up was done by Ms. Buckley.

It must be difficult listening to the producer, the caller, the guest and keeping the program moving. However, there are some callers who have some excellent questions and their questions are glossed over. My suggestion, get a little tougher.

I wish to commend your coverage of current events and these criticisms are only made with the best of intentions. I have detected no bias in your coverage. I also like the way you hold up news stories from the major papers and quiz your guests on them. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.