

— Susan
— Terry

March 2, 2000

Mr. Brian Lamb, CEO
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol St., NW
Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I hope you will take the time to read this letter in its entirety. I am an avid C-SPAN viewer. In my view, C-SPAN provides many opportunities for continued learning even for "oldsters" like myself who, at age 62, still wants to learn and grow.

I am an African-American woman, wife and mother of five adult children. I hold a masters degree in public administration. I am taking the liberty of making a suggestion for a C-SPAN series that I hope you will consider and hopefully do at some time in the future.

As I watch C-SPAN, I am continually bothered by calls that come in from both black and white viewers on issues of race. Many of them, in my humble opinion, are fraught with emotion but lack historical knowledge of the subject they are discussing. My suggestion is that C-SPAN do a series (based on the model of your wonderful presidential series) on race. I would further suggest that this not be an opinion series, but one instead, that would begin before the boats brought slaves to this country. It could begin with how the slave trade began and could even show some of the African countries where the slave trade originated. It could then discuss the states where the slaves were brought, how slave auctions were conducted, the many different life styles slaves lived, depending upon the work they were required to do, etc. There are many aspects that could be covered, the underground railroad, the civil war, emancipation and the effects this had on the freed slaves, the

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reconstruction era, desegregation of the military, the civil rights movement and much more.

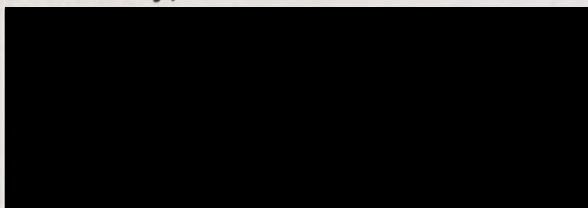
I would like to see an intellectual discussion throughout this series. (I'm already dreaming that you will do it – smiles.) Therefore, those who are part of the series would need to have the ability to discuss, without bringing their own baggage to the discussion. Historians could do a wonderful job with the issue of race.

I think if people could have a non-emotional well documented presentation on race from pre-slavery to the present, it would help all of our understanding of the many different aspects of this problem which continues to be the center of contention in many of the calls C-SPAN receives. And I believe that C-SPAN would be doing a great service to the nation in presenting this series.

I know that you might think that this is high-risk in terms of people becoming more agitated about the race issue, but I wonder how much more agitated could people really become after I hear some of the calls. I am frankly amazed at times, no matter which race is calling.

Anyway, something to consider. Again, I truly believe such a series could be helpful if done by C-SPAN. And thank you for the wonderful work you are already doing with C-SPAN.

Sincerely,



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