

[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
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I watch C-Span because it is the most marvelous opportunity yet invented to bring the government of the United States with all its accompanying ramifications in business, education, media and local government to every cable-viewing American in this country.

Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network is unique in that it fills an information gap and lead-time that most national and local public affairs broadcast and print media are unable to do. C-Span, through its vast network, is able to provide timely information of inestimable value.

CableAmericans have the opportunity to familiarize and become knowledgeable about the nation's most urgent and controversial issues. Not only that, but C-Span makes it possible for Americans to make contact directly with their elected officials and members of the media and other professions. It serves as a forum and has the ability to draw millions of citizens together for an exchange of American thought and values, opinions and differences. C-Span gives substance to the shadow of American dialogue.

I began watching C-Span as a welcome alternative to condensed, second-hand news. I also enjoy the live coverage of the House of Representatives and look forward to the day when the Senate grants the same permission to videotape its proceedings. When this has been accomplished, the breadth and depth of the C-Span coverage will grow as well as the ability of CableAmerica to make voting and other decisions based upon a sound foundation of first-hand information. Our lives and our

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society as a whole grow ever more complex. That is why I believe knowledgeable, current information is crucial to our decision-making process. C-Span puts me, the average American in touch with the thought leaders and agenda-setters of this society. In that conduit function--it is unrivaled in public service media.

C-Span not only makes it possible for a nationwide audience to exchange views, it promises to provide the future with an interested, responsive and active citizenry. Because C-Span is yet in its formative years, the first five years of broadcast have only scratched the surface of its potential impact on this country. Much has been made over the sometimes intrusive influence of the media in national politics and opinionry, yet C-Span is the only true, positive realization of this pervasive phenomenon. Although C-Span covers the corridors of power and influence, it strongly adheres to the role of "Observer." It uses this role to fully and objectively inform the citizens of this country. Curiously, in doing so, C-Span issues a silent challenge to its peers.

I watch C-Span because I am fascinated to see the televised form evolve into its true potential--broadcast media with objectivity, influence and impact. I predict that C-Span will be a potent force as the United States moves into the 21st Information Century.

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