



COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS
2000 Republican National Convention

August 17, 1999

Brown
FYE!

[Redacted]

Mr. Steven L. Scully
Senior Executive Producer
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Steve:

Thank you for your letter describing C-SPAN's dedication to our American political process and your interest in participating in convention planning meetings with network television officials.

I appreciate the singular manner in which C-SPAN broadcasts the national political conventions to television viewers across the country. Your treatment of the convention process has led to a special relationship between our party's convention planners and your organization, and I hold your distinctive convention coverage in high regard.

I trust from your correspondence that you intend to apply this unique focus to the 2000 conventions. As a result I think that the American electorate will be better informed next November.

We are meeting this week with network pool representatives for the convention. We are limiting attendance at this introductory meeting to networks that are full cost sharing and voting members of the pool. This meeting will deal with issues at the network level, but we will not make decisions, establish policies or reach agreements that affect C-SPAN's coverage of the convention in any way.

We will review these policies with the intent of widening participation in key meetings that relate to issues in which C-SPAN or other organizations have a direct stake. At the same time, we reserve the right to have a one-on-one meeting with any entity, whether it is the network pool, C-SPAN, or other news organization.

I look forward to meeting with you and C-SPAN convention planners to begin discussing your coverage of the 2000 Republican National Convention. You have an open invitation here in Philadelphia, or I am happy to work with you to find a time agreeable to us both to meet in Washington. Thank you again for your commitment to covering our democratic process.

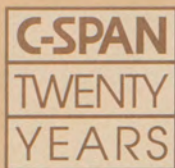
Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

cc: RNC Chairman Jim Nicholson



[Redacted] Philadelphia, PA 19107 • [Redacted]



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August 9, 1999

Mr. Timothy H. Fitzpatrick
Press Secretary,
2000 Republican National Convention
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

Dear Tim,

Despite our recent conversation, we at C-SPAN remain very disappointed about our exclusion from the initial 2000 convention planning meeting between the Republican National Committee and five other networks. I'm writing to again underscore what we've discussed on the phone, and that is C-SPAN's desire to be at all future meetings with the national television networks.

Here are the facts regarding coverage as we enter the 2000 RNC convention:

- 1.) C-SPAN is now seen in nearly DOUBLE the combined carriage of MSNBC and the Fox News Network. Yet both of these networks have de-facto seats at your initial planning meeting because of their parent companies.
- 2.) In the past four presidential election years, the broadcast networks have reduced the the broadcast time they've allotted to the conventions. News and corporate executives at the three commercial networks have been quoted in news stories that the reduced coverage is an appropriate editorial decision, give the low "news value" of the conventions.
- 3.) In each of those four presidential election cycles, C-SPAN has provided live, gavel-to-gavel coverage of the conventions, while also increasing the editorial resources to our productions.
- 4.) C-SPAN's audience IS the American political community your party seeks to communicate with. A 1996 survey of our viewers indicated that 95% of our audience went to the polls that year, at a time when the overall national turnout remains under 50%.

In summary, after 20 years of demonstrated commitment to coverage of the political process, we think it's time for the RNC to give us a seat at the table with the five other networks. While I appreciate you agreeing to set up a separate site survey for us, excluding C-SPAN from this first network planning session is "old-think."

Please give me a call so we can discuss how to proceed from here. C-SPAN hopes to have the support and access it needs in order to present comprehensive coverage of your historic 2000 convention in Philadelphia.

I look forward to working with you on this.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Scully
Political Editor

CC: Chairman Jim Nicholson
Brian Lamb

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