

[REDACTED]
Auburn, AL 36830
February 21, 1992

Mr. Bryan Lamb
C-SPAN
400 North Capital Street
Suite 650
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Bryan:

Again I must tell you that I really appreciate C-SPAN! Its very important to those of us who live far away from the center of national and international events.

The coverage of the New Hampshire primary was excellent. That primary is relaxed, being first it is always a change of pace, and I feel that the people are different there. I would not recommend covering all of the others in such depth. Let me say however, that if you do I will be tuned in.

The stay at the Inn was a delight for me. We see no snow since we moved to the south many years ago. I know the reduced crew made long hours for everyone but to my mind every thing was great. When you set up for such a stint it is easy to have sufficient time for some one like Mrs. Loeb. The long hours were apparent when I turned Susan Swain off late one night only to find her there again when I turned on the next morning. I did not know whether she had been on all night or whether she had rested and came back. In any event I realize the long hours the two of you and the others worked to keep us informed. I know everyone on this side of the cameras appreciated that.

I would now like to suggest an area that you might consider for some depth of coverage. For several years now, after a MacNeil-Lehrer program I saw, I have felt that there must be some way in which to set about to defuse the tensions in the abortion issue.

Several years ago MacNeil-Lehrer had an attorney who had spend a year's study leave to Europe to look into how those countries were handling the abortion problem without rancor. She had a well documented account of how those countries supported women in any choice they made. If they kept the child they provided substantial support of all kinds. If they chose an abortion they provided the appropriate support. All of this was done without confrontation and rancor. I have never forgotten the report provided by that attorney. It seems to me that this type of reasoned approach is something this country needs to undertake as soon as possible.

I was suddenly reminded of this intractable problem when I turned to C-SPAN late last night. The program also pointed out the only possible way to engage the subject. We cannot have another civil war develop over such a matter.

Last night C-SPAN covered the abortion debates in the Irish Parliament. The civility and calmness of the debate and the determination of that body to act immediately on the recent issue of the pregnant child who was barred from having an abortion in

London seems to be a present day example of the way to discuss the problem.

Virtually all of the speakers were pro-life but by and large they felt there must be some way to accommodate those individuals who make the choice for abortion to go where it is perfectly legal and have the procedure performed. There were firm stands on both sides but the willingness to engage in the debate without shouting and threatening is an example of the behavior that I see is absolutely essential as a starting point. Indeed one of the debaters warned that they could not take the path by the minority in Northern Ireland who would defy the good of the entire country by destroying everything just to keep their own point of view and attain their own goals.

Recently I read (probably in the New York Times) of two groups of extremists who have been quietly been discussing common ground in this issue for a year or more. Both sides admitted how much common ground they found between themselves. There is hope!

I would hope that C-SPAN might consider undertaking a series of low profile programs on the subject, using only those individuals who were controlled, reasonable, knowledgeable, and with some stature in government, business, medicine, or government.

The object would not be to solve the problem but to show the way to defuse the rancor and destructive behavior that is growing within the country. The constructive action carried out in other countries could serve as a model on how to approach the problem. Specifically, what were the stumbling points and how was each approached to develop a meaningful rapport.

The one-on-one interviews might be the best way to handle such an undertaking to prevent on screen hostility. Certainly opposing individuals would be better if they were selected on the basis of civil behavior. My feeling is that a call-in program would be disastrous, at least in the early stages.

It seems to that it would have to be a prolonged type of effort and not just a one shot affair. I know C-SPAN could do this well if it were something you would undertake. Only C-SPAN can decide whether it is the kind of thing you could or should undertake.

I think the least that C-SPAN can do at this time is to carry the progress of the Irish debates and actions on this subject until the end -- regardless of how the result turns out. If things are worked out with civility, the actions can be cited as an example. If things work out otherwise, the actions can be cited as an example of a society's failure.

We do not have C-SPAN-2, but I like what see on C-SPAN. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,



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