

[REDACTED]
Dexter, Maine 04930
[REDACTED]

1/8/99

C-SPAN

Fellow Citizens;

When I first thought of this plan it seemed so simple and reasonable that I could not believe that it had not been thought of before. I thought there must be some reason why it was unworkable. I expected to be promptly told what that reason was, but the plan has been almost completely ignored. Those who answer my letters usually like the idea . There has been no criticism of the plan itself.

Some politicians assume that the people don't know what is happening in Washington. The recent elections and their reaction to the attempt to remove the president from office prove that the people understand congress much better than congress understands the people. Most citizens no longer expect any help from Washington. They have lost interest in politics and government. They no longer bother to vote.

Our forefathers wanted to create a government of the people, by the people, for the people. This was not possible at the time due to a lack of communications. The voters had no direct contact with the candidates. Middle men were needed both to select the candidates and introduce them to the voters. Television ends this need by giving the candidates direct contact with the voters. I believe that if our forefathers had possessed television we would now be electing our presidents in much the same way as is outlined in this plan.

Yours Sincerely;
[REDACTED]

8. Unpeach

A PLAN FOR GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE

The country would be divided into six districts with approximately the same population. Each district would appoint a panel to screen the potential candidates. The panels would be chosen by lot in the same way we now choose juries. A minimum education might be required, but if juries picked in this manner are qualified to decide criminal cases they should be able to decide who is qualified to run for office. Each panel would choose up to five candidates from their own district. A series of television debates would be held between the candidates from each district. Preliminary elections would be held to eliminate all but one candidate from each district. A second series of debates would be held between the winners from adjoining districts. Three more preliminary elections would choose the finalists. We would then have three presidential candidates each from a different section of the country with about the same number of voters in each. The final series of debates would be held over a nationwide television network. The presidential election would follow.

The political parties could nominate their candidates and conduct their campaigns as usual. The names of their candidates could appear on the ballot, but they could not take part in the debates unless they were chosen by the panel from their own district.

All candidates would have an excellent opportunity to introduce themselves to the voters and explain their philosophy of government. The voters would be better informed than ever before.

Political advertising, political parties, and expensive campaign trips would no longer be necessary. The only expense would be for television air time. This would cost the average taxpayer very little. I am sure they would be glad to contribute this small amount in order to elect a president who had the welfare of the people at heart. The only obligation of the president-elect would be to the people he was elected to serve.

I will welcome any criticism or advice that you wish to offer.