May 2, 1997

C-SPAN Networks
400 N. Capital St., N.W., suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

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Dear C-SPAN,

I thank you so very much for answering my letter questioning your reasons for no longer providing addresses for the Washington Journal guests. I would like to write once again to comment on your very surprising decision.

Obviously, if our nation's major journalists are so sensitive that they cannot shrug of hate mail, then C-SPAN must do something or no longer have them as guests. I deeply abhor and regret the journalists desires that they be shielded, as if in a cocoon, from the public which they target on a daily basis.

Journalists' power is great! It plays a very major role in determining the direction of this country. Therefore, I
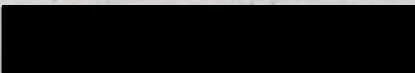
believe they, as well as the elected officials, ought to be held responsible and open to criticism.

I regret hate-mail as any rational citizen naturally would. It really serves no purpose except perhaps to relieve the tensions of the author temporarily.

I view this entire subject as just one more communication cut-off between the powerful and the powerless. One more huge gap created between rulers and ruled, haves and have-nots, privileged and underprivileged, etc., etc.

I lament that C-SPAN has made one more decision which <u>curtails</u> any effort to bridge that widening gap, and, yes, purposefully widens it in an effort to protect the establishment elitists whose sensibilities are so very delicate.

Sincerely,

P.S. - With this decision as well as your restricted telephones and guest choices, you do far more to alienate Americans from their political system and government than you do helping them to communicate and participate.

Further, I certainly can see the "coincidental" reinstating of C-SPAN in areas where it was dumped of the cable systems. C-SPAN, then, is no freer to speak than are the networks. Ownership and funding determine freedoms afterall, don't they?