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Wytheville, VA 24382

October 12, 1990

C-SPAN

400 N. Capitol Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001

Dear C-SPAN:

Thank you for airing the legislative proceedings of the U.S. government on your network.

I just finished watching your telecast of H.R. 5803 and its proposed amendments — and I am appalled by what I've seen:

- (1) The House was voting on legislation and had less than a quorum present for voting.
- (2) The Speaker repeatedly asked the House to come to order and it did not.
- (3) The audio portion of the program was lost at key points during and between speeches by the Speaker and the members.

As an American and as a voter, I am appalled at what I've seen, and I would like to suggest several changes in your telecasting:

- (1) I would like to see the C-SPAN cameras pan the audience instead of remaining fixed on portions of the House near the front. (The American people elected Representatives to attend the House, and I think the people are entitled to see whether those Representatives are in the House or not.)
- (2) Because the people elected the Representatives and the Representatives are to vote according to the

wishes of their constituencies, I would like to see C-SPAN broadcast the voting record of each member of Congress. This could be done at the end of each voting session and run down the screen like credits at the end of the broadcast. (It's nice to know how many members voted which way — but it would be much nicer to know who voted which way.)

- (3) I would like to hear everything that is said on the floor instead of having portions of conversations audioed-out.

I would like to thank C-SPAN again for at least letting the American people have some idea of what goes on in their government. And I would apologize that C-SPAN has so little to work with in so far as members of the House are concerned.

Most of the proceedings I've watched have been travesties of government/legislation, and I'm just sorry that people in other countries can see the broadcasts via satellite. Our legislators should be ashamed at the picture they're presenting to both the American people and to others the world over..., but that's not your fault.

Keep up the good work, but don't become complaisant in your coverage. It's becoming more and more apparent that U.S. politicians need accountability to the American people — and "we the people" are counting on groups such as C-SPAN to help us hold 'em to it.

Sincerely,

