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C-SPAN

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I have just seen your presentation of historical data on congressional salaries. Without comparable data on prices and incomes, the historical data are rather meaningless. What was a \$6.00 per diem worth in 1790?

More significant, all the details about recent congressional compensation are not very meaningful without comparative data on salaries/compensation in the private sector (profit and non-profit). Can you find any organization that has a budget greater than a trillion dollars per year which pays its board of directors or executives less than or an amount equal to Congressional compensation? It is a commonplace that the Government of the United States is

the "greatest Country in the world" or "in the history of the world." Yet, we begrudge our principal policy makers salaries that wouldn't arouse any comment or resentment if received by moderately successful professionals and business people, whose ability to affect the life of the nation is in no way comparable to that of a Senator or Representative.

If C-SPAN is going to enter into debate on policy (and make no mistake, selecting facts for presentation is entering the debate), it should endeavor to put the "facts" in a meaningful context that will further public understanding, rather than feed the mindless resentments that typify so much discussion about Congress.

C-SPAN is a great public resource. Please maintain your integrity and realize your potential for democratic deliberation.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]