

KERRVILLE, TX 78028

SEPT. 12, 1992

C-SPAN

400 NORTH CAPITOL, Suite 650

Washington, D.C. 20001

C-SPAN is a great national resource, but it's not living up to its potential. Positives first:

1. Booknotes - great! Give us more!
2. Profiles - (Domenici & Sasser - fascinating) More!
3. Vietnam - extensive & intensive treatments of some policy areas seem called for, but with appropriate individualization of the issues & the format that is appropriate. E.g. Schools and health both deserve extensive, in-depth analysis that no broadcast media are providing.
4. Gavel to gavel coverage of both houses is boring but educational - but do we need to hear music for 15-20 minutes during a vote - Couldn't something else be put on during those interludes?
5. giving callers a chance to express themselves without arbitrary cut-offs is great. (Sometime tell us who they are - your host said they are not representative of C-SPAN viewers. Please tell us what you know about callers & viewers.)

Negatives:

1. You rely far too much on journalists. Many are incredibly poorly informed. Most of what they say we've already heard several times from other journalists. I'm not complaining about bias; they are just boring, parroting ^{to the question} poor listeners (at least they don't respond), and can't respond even on questions supposedly in their field of expertise (e.g. the economic writer that can't respond on elementary economic factual questions).
2. It's so frustrating not to be able to get a call answered. I've tried scores of times over the last two years and never once succeeded. Isn't there some way that a queue could be created by written application so that one could get a call in, say, once a year or every six months? You would call the caller when the ~~g~~ his/her turn arrives (at caller's expense, of course). I think you

Could get a more representative set of callers for this part of the call-in program (it would be only a part, not displacing all calls under the present lottery system).

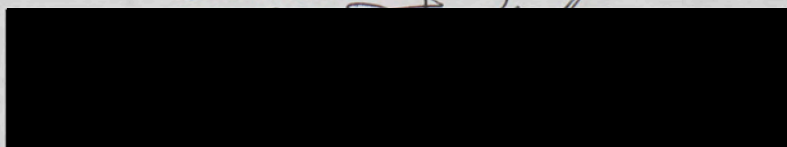
3. (This is positive and negative). Many of your best programs are Congressional committee hearings, but it's frustrating when you leave them to cover Congressional sessions. Can't you complete them on tape for later programs?

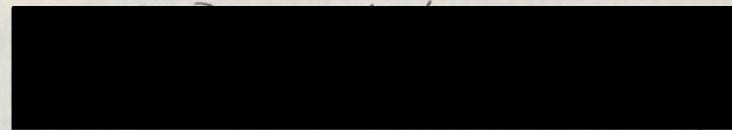
4. Broadcast of sessions of conferences, press conferences, Press Club, political speeches, seminars, and the like are often far more rewarding than your sessions with journalists. You have published sessions of Jewish organizations from time to time. Great, but how about ^{more from} some of the other ethnic groups. E.g., the annual meeting of the American-Arab anti-Discrimination Committee was loaded with interesting

topics and speakers. Some of your
HEI sessions have been great. Ditto
today's conference on the NAFTA.
Please give us more!

5. Please, can't we have more experts
in place of ^xjournalists for call-in
shows. I include academics, lobbyists,
members of Congress, think tank people,
authors, policy analysts, etc. Ideally,
diverse views should be included
when possible, especially when the
expert has an axe to grind (e.g.,
lobbyists). I realize this isn't easy to
arrange, but the journalist alternative
is a real weak spot in C-SPAN's
otherwise strong programming.

Thank you for your consideration.
And keep up the good work. The staff
is to be congratulated on its self-restraint,
courtesy and overall professionalism.
Sincerely,





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