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Dec 31st 1990


D8022 Grünwald

Germany.

FEB 5 ANS'D

Dear C-Span,

It is with great sadness that I write this letter, please may I explain? I listened to an interview today with two journalists, after a very short time I decided that perhaps I could contribute, as invited, to the programme with 3 questions which are of interest to me and perhaps of interest to the other viewers. As you well know it is very difficult to get anyone to answer at C-SPAN but I persisted and after 30 minutes and approximately 10 attempts the telephone was answered, I asked 3 questions, the third was incorrectly answered the first two weren't answered at all; what was said was what the journalists had previously written. The cost of a European call is considerable but my respect for C-SPAN is such that I do not begrudge the price of approximately \$20, but when my questions are contemptuously dealt with, no that is inaccurate, the attitude was that I was no more than a teenager and couldn't possibly have the insight of the distinguished journalists. I listened and felt sick that the questions had been dismissed as being somewhat trivial.

Whoever reads this missive please pass on to those who matter that never again will I bother to pick up a telephone and my appetite for C-SPAN has not disappeared, but almost.

The two Journalists were Georgie Geyer (Independent Journalist) and David Ignatius (Washington Post) with Brian Lamb as the interviewer.

I almost prefaced my questions with, "May I interrupt this mutual admiration society", but I didn't. The condescension of the journalists was pathetic and only equalled by that of Mr Lamb, whose questioning was, to put it mildly, inept, bordering on the obsequious, in the presence of the mighty press. Ms Geyer was intent on congratulating other journalists for their very fine in depth reporting, being an independent journalist she is not going to miss the opportunity, is she? The reporting Ms Geyer so admired was an article about the difficulties in Russia. I can remember reading such an article many years ago in the Sunday Times which confidently predicted the dissolution of the Russian Empire in the not too distant future. I suspect Ms Geyer is like many other writers, in love with their own opinion. Mr Ignatius was quite insufferable and I'm jolly glad that I cannot read the Washington Times, I can now fully appreciate why the Congress treats the press with contempt, if Mr Ignatius is representative of Washington's journalism then the press fully deserves such contempt. However we the viewers, we the readers are the customers and please remember that we are always right?

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The people who conduct C-SPAN's programmes should never lose sight of the fact that there are viewers who are very well informed and believe it or not they can read.

In conclusion I would like to say how very sorry I am that I feel it necessary to write this letter but on the other hand I won't have to spend so much on expensive phone calls to America because they will be exceedingly poor value when connected to C-SPAN.

Perhaps it will be a Happy New Year when Mr Lamb and his half baked comments are removed from C-SPAN which is only as good or bad as the people in it.

Yours in great Earnest

and in great sadness

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PS:- My Questions were:-

(1) What will happen in the Middle East when another one million Jews arrive in Israel from Russia ?

(2) Communism was brought about by force in Russia perhaps it requires force to impose capitalism ?

(3) How does the US arrive at the cost so far for the forces in the Golf when they are already being paid for both in Germany the US and elsewhere outside the the US, sorry the answer is obvious Savings accounting ! I wish I had thought of the answer when phoning.

cc: Brian Lamb
Sarah Trahern



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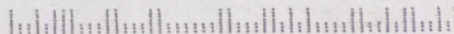
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For the Attn:-The Director.




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