

[REDACTED]
Vero Beach FL 32963
Home Phone [REDACTED]

Mr. Brian Lamb, President and CEO
400 N. Capitol St. Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb

I wanted to share with you a modest victory for C-SPAN viewers. I live in Vero Beach, a small city on the Florida east coast. The population is about 17,500 burgeoning to 58,000 during the tourist season.

Recently, TCI, our local cable provider was required to furnish an additional channel to the county under its franchise agreement. TCI elected to drop C-SPANII to meet this requirement. They said "The devil made us do it" and to blame the City Council not TCI. Also, low viewership made C-SPANII the prime candidate for removal. This was based on a "survey" of 400 viewers. Needless to say the survey could not be quantified and was taken when the more affluent residents were away.

I, among others, sent letters to the editor of the local paper prompting an editorial by them. The City Council suddenly realized that it was being accused of depriving the viewers of one of the few worthwhile channels on TV. I have enclosed my letter and another as well as the article in the Press Journal discussing the results of a hearing at which the proposed change was discussed. The council, in its wisdom, decided a thirty day cooling off period was needed to review the matter. If I had to bet, I bet that an accommodation will be made to continue C-SPANII.

I have often heard you say, sometimes public input works. Hopefully, this is one of those times

Sincerely,

*o. cable
gave
copy to Peter*

C-SPAN II

TCI Could Drop Other Channels

I, too, was disappointed to see that C-SPAN II has been preempted by the Vero Beach for a new toy at the expense of the taxpayers. It will be interesting to see if the quality of programming generated even approaches that of C-SPAN II.

I do think that TCI has pulled a real public-relations coup. While its franchise may require that they provide channel space for the government, it is quite disingenuous for them to infer that they were required to drop C-SPAN II specifically.

This smacks of the federal government closing the passport offices and national parks whenever there is a need to cut back services. TCI likewise has eliminated a very popular channel creating maximum inconvenience to viewers. One need only "surf" the channels for more attractive candidates for elimination. I vote for the one that hawks pocket knives and swords in prime time.

Come now TCI, you should be ashamed. With your new digitalization, you can't find room for a truly quality service. After all, C-SPAN II is the product of the cable industry's effort to serve the public.

I guess the industry giveth and the industry can taketh away.

Paul Kemp
Vero Beach

Fix Schools First Then Go On TV

One of the rewards of living in Vero Beach is the presence of C-SPAN I and C-SPAN II on our cable television. Of all the channels on TV, these are the only ones offering objective and unfiltered information to us viewers.

Now we learn that Indian River County Schools Superintendent Roger Dearing has demanded that school public relations programming take over a channel on our cable system and, in the process, push C-SPAN II off the air.

The gall, the insensitivity and the disregard of the citizens' need for unbiased news and political dialogue, as represented by Dearing's demands would be laughable if it were not so tragic.

Something must be done to stop this hijack. Let the School District get the publicity it so desperately seeks through better SAT scores and improved statewide test rankings. Then we will be happy to take our hats off to Mr. Dearing.

[REDACTED]
Vero Beach