

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4202

October 25, 1990

Mr. Jim Crowdis
General Manager
Chattanooga Cable Company
Box 303
325 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401

Dear Mr. Crowdis:

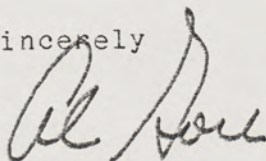
A number of my constituents have expressed to me their concern about your decision to reduce the programming hours of C-Span. I was pleased to learn last week that you have made arrangements to air C-Span after all.

While I expect that many constituents have complained directly to you about this matter, I have enclosed copies of the letters which I have recently received. Obviously, eliminating evening and weekend viewing of C-Span is of great concern to many of your customers.

As you know, C-Span has become a window into public policy for Tennesseans. By curtailing the air time of C-Span, Chattanooga Cable would ultimately deny citizens the opportunity to fully participate in their government.

Thanks again for your reversal, I hope that you will take into consideration the concerns of these citizens and continue C-Span carriage which has offered customers quality public service for so many years.

Sincerely



Al Gore
U. S. Senate

AG/kab

Enclosure

cc: Dan Walters, Tennessee Cable Association
Brian Lamb, C-Span

Sept. 24, 1990

Call to
find out

[REDACTED]
Chatt. TN 37405

Senator Albert Gore
256 Federal Building
Chatt. TN 37405

Dear Senator Gore:

As a constituent of yours, I've thoroughly enjoyed watching your appearances on C-SPAN over the years. It seems I won't be able to do so anymore.

Our local cable TV company has, without public debate nor even advance notice, discontinued all evening airing of C-SPAN. When I called to ask why, they mumbled something about hardware improvements and possibly giving C-SPAN back a year from this November.

In a country where access to information is guaranteed by the Constitution can a company which enjoys an effective monopoly get away with not allowing me access to an important and unique source?

Senator Gore, please lean on these hooligans to turn it back on. Also, please see what legislative remedies are available. I would support your efforts to regulate these companies. They cannot be allowed to abuse an effective monopoly position this way.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours,
[REDACTED]

cc: cable co
file

[REDACTED]
HARRISON, TENNESSEE 37341

October 11, 1990

The Honorable Albert Gore, Jr.
United States Senate
Room 393, Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gore:

In the past eight years that I have had cable TV I have become enthralled by C-SPAN. Recently Chattanooga Cable TV Co. chose to replace C-SPAN with SportSouth during normal viewing hours, from 5 p.m. weekdays and from 11 a.m. weekends. Knowing of your concern with the cable industry (from watching you on C-SPAN), I am hoping you will be willing to use your influence to help area C-SPAN fans reverse this appeal to the lowest common denominator in viewers.

As you know, C-SPAN is a public service of the cable industry itself. So much for public service from CCTV! I suppose CCTV is catering to the 75% here who didn't bother to vote in the last election. I thoroughly enjoy many sporting events on TV, but if you will read the articles and editorial enclosed you will see SportSouth is ridiculous. Sunday night I checked and they had a tape of Saturday's Boise State vs. Montana football game with the score 48-3 at the time I tuned in. How many people around here would care?

But the point is not that SportSouth is so bad, rather that C-SPAN is so great. As I heard Senator Kohl say during the Souter nomination hearing (while we still had C-SPAN), "...I've learned an awful lot from C-SPAN."

While we C-SPAN fans may not be a majority or even a plurality, we are dedicated and active. If you agree that C-SPAN is an important and unique public service which should be available in the Chattanooga area, would you please write or call Mr. Jim Crowdis, manager of Chattanooga Cable TV Co. The address is 325 Market St., Chattanooga, TN 37402 and his phone number is (615) 756-3479.

Thank you for any help you can give.

Very truly yours,
[REDACTED]

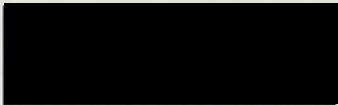
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CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37411

27 September 1990

Hon. Albert Gore, Jr.
United States Senate
373 Russell Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gore:

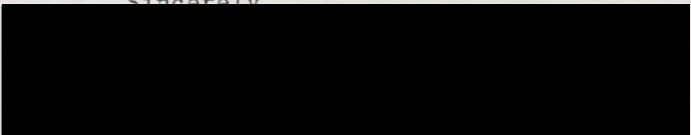
The Telescripps Cable Company serving our area has stopped its complete broadcasting of C-Span, dropping it at 5:00 p.m. Now, starting at 5:00 p.m., a sports programming of typical network pap is broadcast on that channel. C-Span is picked up again in the morning. Telescripps Cable Company claims a shortage of satellite capability necessitated its dropping of C-Span. (The replacement programming has commercials which provide income that was not forthcoming from running C-Span.)

(Telescripps was recently renewed its contract by the Chattanooga City Commission to serve this area upon promises to upgrade its service. It may be worth noting that the above change was made after the new contract was put in place.)

As you know, C-Span is an offering of the Cable Industry and is a service paid for from revenue included in the rate cable companies charge their subscribers. C-Span provides complete, honest, live coverage of the House of Representatives. When the House is not being covered live by C-Span, interviews with senators and Senate Committee hearings that were previously taped are aired. There are call-in programs about current events to informed guests, National Press Club coverage, etc. For average viewers, C-Span is the sole source of this kind of information without editing and extraneous commentary. As a matter of fact, that is why I'm writing this letter to you, Senator Gore; I saw you on C-Span during Senate hearings about the Cable Company industry.

I respectfully request that your office check into Telescripp Company's abridgement of airing C-Span, and I trust you will do what you can to restore this good and useful service to cable subscribers in the Chattanooga area.

Thank you.

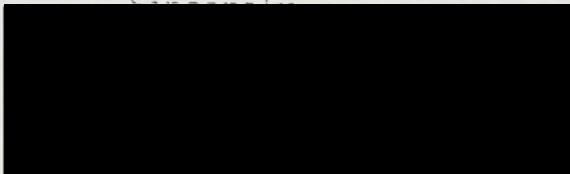
Sincerely,


Oct 1, 1990

The Hon. Albert Gore
United States Senate
393 Russell Office Building
Wash. D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Senator:

Please read the enclosed copy I have sent to the managing editors of the Chattanooga Times and the Chattanooga Free Press. I would appreciate any help from you in restoring 24 hr. viewing of C-Span to Chattanooga. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ooltewah, TN 37363

October 1, 1990

Mr. Paul Neely, managing editor
The Chattanooga Times
117 E. 10 th St.
Chattanooga, TN 37401

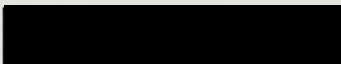
Dear Editor:

I am concerned about The Chattanooga Cable Company which has assumed power to suddenly eliminate evening and weekend viewing from the C-Span Network. C-Span is a non-profit TV network which not only serves the American public as an educational source of the processes of its government but provides the viewing audience nationally and internationally the ability to communicate with legislators of all branches of government, reporters and newspaper columnists on current issues. This means every citizen of the United States who has Cable service has the privilege to contribute once every 30 days whatever views, information or questions he wishes to ask during four 45 minute segments a day, 2 morning and 2 evening. Just from call-ins alone one has the unique experience of hearing opinions from all corners of the country and the globe. It is unique especially in that NO OTHER NETWORK ON TELEVISION in our country or in any other provides this outgrowth of freedom. C-Span I also gives daily live coverage of the proceedings of the U.S. Congress, live coverage of House and Senate hearings, re-runs of the President's speeches in entirety and interviews with authors of books on topics of current interest and interviews with anyone from past presidents, military personnel to visiting heads of state. It has taken on other educational projects and coverage of international meetings of major importance. C-Span II covers the proceedings in the Senate live daily but so far our area is not allowed the benefits of that network, which may speak partly for viewer apathy.

C-Span I, however, has been on our TV viewing area 24 hours a day for 5 years. Why are large portions of it, without notice, now being omitted? The fact that we are on the brink of war makes the omission all the more significant. Are the viewers lacking in interest on knowing as many facts as possible on the issues that affect us? I give Chattanooga credit for more intelligence than that and I have heard many in our viewing area contribute to the call-in segments. Certainly, our area has sent as many men to military service in the past few weeks as any other in the country and we have the right to know the facts surrounding their lives while they are overseas and the reasons for sending them.

The C-Span network exists solely because of the freedom we have in our country to participate in our government. To delete the very network which films our government in action is taking away a most precious right, our knowledge of government. No one has the right to intervene electronically or otherwise between a U.S. citizen and his government and to do so is a breach of patriotism and justice. I urge those who have known the C-Span experience and those who know of it now, all educators from kindergarten through college, and everyone who believes in a free press society to write your representatives, state and local, and send copies to your newspaper, The Chattanooga Cable Company, and to C-Span, 400 N. Capitol N.W., Wash. D.C. 20001

Very sincerely,


Ooltewah, TN 37363