

Murfreesboro TN 37130-4634

Mr. Brian Lamb, CEO
Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network
400 North Capitol Street NW
Suite 412
Washington DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

So many people express to you their admiration for your operation that I shall not burden you with my own, except to say that I especially relish your brilliantly conducted interviews of authors. Apparently, ego does not interfere with your interviewing procedures--for which there should be a Nobel Prize.

Probably I shall not live long enough to see the less immediate effects of operations such as yours on the nature of American politics. I hope that the pressures being released will somehow operate through the established arrangements for representative and elected government. However, should the people get in too big of a hurry to see the fruit of their newly aroused political sensitivities I fear that you and yours will need to take some of the blame.

There are certain problems for me in the way you do business. I know that for various reasons there is little that you can do about some of them, but I just wanted to let you know what I think.

1. I wish I could hear much of what you broadcast on the radio instead of on the television. When your book programs are on there is (no offense) no reason to run an expensive television set and attach myself to a chair. I might even want to be in my automobile.

2. Your reliance on viewer call-in formats is quite understandable, and I think the process is managed by your people with an acumen that is astonishing. The viewers who call in, of course, take upon themselves the burden of representing various points of view, and C-Span personnel are therefore relieved of that burden. Nevertheless, surely there must be something else to do during a short break in the live coverage of a hearing. I just think there is too much viewer call-in.

My impression is that you have carefully thought out reasons for doing what you do, but I just want to get my two cents in.

3. What I say here is no doubt affected by the fact that I do not get C-Span II. I sure do wish you could renegotiate with the leadership of the House of Representatives. Here I sit missing an important Senate or House hearing because various Representatives want to get on television to make their special speeches instead of entering them into the Record.

I know the pertinent rules of the House. I am sensitive to the impulses of the Representatives in question. I have heard (on C-SPAN) a reasoned defense of the practice of those representatives. But it would seem to me that the leadership of the House might be as concerned as I am that this time, which wrecks other programming, and makes the House look silly, is used over and over again by the same people.

An aside: I am an expensively educated fifty-seven year old man. I am **NOT** a combat veteran. I am not on conversational terms with anyone who still watches NBC, CBS, or NBC--except for sports. And that includes my much-too-large group of acquaintances which comprises high school and college students.

Thank you.



Wednesday 30 October 1991


Murfreesboro, TN 37130-4634

Mr. Brian Lamb, CEO
C-SPAN
400 North Capital Street NW
Suite 412
Washington DC 20001

