

February 12, 2004

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COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

2004 FEB 17 A 11:00  
Bruce D Collins  
Corporate Vice President  
and General Counsel

Hon. Lawrence H. Norton  
General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: **MUR 5395; C-SPAN's Response to Complaint**

Dear Mr. Norton:

On February 9, 2004 National Cable Satellite Corporation, d/b/a C-SPAN (hereafter, "C-SPAN") received a letter (addressed to "Donald Hirsch") from the FEC's Jeff S. Jordan, Supervisory Attorney Complaints Examinations & Legal Administration in which he noted that the Commission had received a complaint which indicated that our organization may have violated the Federal Election Campaign Act (the "Act"). This letter constitutes C-SPAN's response to that complaint.

C-SPAN has not violated the Act because it has never staged a political debate subject to the Act.

In a letter dated November 20, 2003 to your office, an attorney for the Complainants, Lenora B. Fulani and the Committee for a Unified Independent Party, made a reference to C-SPAN as an entity that "staged" a presidential candidates debate to be held in New Hampshire on December 9, 2003. C-SPAN did not have any involvement with any of the arrangements for that debate. The debate was jointly sponsored by WMUR-TV of Manchester, NH and ABC News. Together, they selected St Anselm's College as the venue for the debate, they selected Ted Koppel of ABC News and Scott Spradling of WMUR-TV to be the questioners, and they selected the presidential candidates who appeared in the debate C-SPAN had no role in any of those decisions.


C-SPAN's sole connection with the debate was to obtain permission from its sponsors to simulcast their production of it, and we did so. C-SPAN has also had no involvement in the staging of any of the other candidates debates mentioned by the Complainants in their

Complaint or in their follow up correspondence to the Commission.

I hope this information is sufficient to allow the Commission to conclude that C-SPAN has not violated the Act. If you require any additional information on this matter please contact me directly at (202) 626-7950 or at [collins@c-span.org](mailto:collins@c-span.org).

Cordially,

**NATIONAL CABLE SATELLITE CORPORATION**

By:   
Bruce D. Collins, Esq.  
Corp. Vice President & General Counsel

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