

I am writing to you concerning an October 9, 2004 Los Angeles Times article reporting that Sinclair Broadcast Group, the largest owner of local television stations in the United States, will be ordering its nationwide affiliates to preempt regular prime-time programming one week prior to the U.S. Presidential Election, between October 21-24, to air "Stolen Honor: Wounds that Never Heal." This film concerns certain former U.S. Vietnam War POWs subjective opinion that Presidential Candidate, Senator John Kerry, worsened and lengthened their time in captivity, by protesting the Vietnam War, once he returned home from combat. Needless-to-say, these views are highly questionable at best, and are vile attacks concerning the Senator's character at worst, as the Senator is decorated Vietnam Veteran. It is obvious that during the current competitive and tight Presidential Election Campaign, this tremendously controversial film is nothing more than a brazen attempt to sway the opinions of voters, in the markets of Sinclair Broadcasting Groups affiliate stations, in favor of President George W. Bush at the time most likely to affect the vote.

With 62 TV stations in 39 markets, including 14 in key political swing states, that include affiliates of all of the major broadcast networks: ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox, WB and UPN, Sinclair has the opportunity to influence the minds of nearly 1/4 of the United States Electorate. Since the nations airwaves are public property, and Sinclair uses them free of charge, then Sinclair is profiting from public property, with no monetary return to the American people. Therefore, in exchange for the right to use the public's air waves, the Federal government obligates broadcasting companies, including Sinclair, to serve the public's best interest concerning the content of their programs. As an American citizen, I do not feel that my interests and the interests of my fellow countrymen are being best served by the preemptive airing, of what amounts to an anti-Kerry propaganda film.

The record clearly shows that Sinclair Broadcasting Groups executives not only hold Republican conservative views themselves, but subject the American people to these personal views through the content of their programming. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, during the current 2004 election cycle, Sinclair Broadcasting has given over \$67,000 in political donations, 97% of which has gone to Republican candidates. Furthermore, there are numerous examples of Sinclair censoring the content of its programming to portray the Republican Party, namely the Bush Administration, in an unrealistically positive light. The most widely publicized example of this occurred when the company opted to "black out" the April 30, 2004 edition of Nightline with Ted Koppel on its ABC affiliates, in which Koppel paid tribute to the sacrifice, honor and courage of our American Troops, by reading the names of those killed, in the war on Terrorism, accompanied on screen by a photo of each soldier. Recognizing that

such an acknowledgement of the human costs of war had the potential to undermine public support for the Bush Administration, Sinclair forbade its ABC-owned stations from airing the show, ironically accusing Nightline of playing politics.

Is it the right of Sinclair Broadcasting Group to determine what programs the American people can and can't watch on their public air waves, or is it Sinclair's duty to be objective concerning the nature and content of its programming? I firmly believe that the correct answer is the latter, and that you, the FCC, have a duty to enforce the Federal Rules that protect the public's best interest.

Thank you for your time.

Peter O. Bullock