

Center for Social Studies Education

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Jerold M. Starr, Director

Dr. George Gerbner
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October 26, 1998

Dear George,

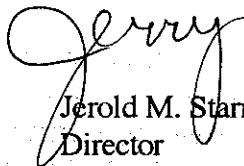
Thank you so much for the invitation to participate in the upcoming planning session for the forthcoming conference on "The Challenge of the Digital Age." I already am committed to another meeting in Austin and regret that I will not be able to attend. However, I would be able to participate in the May 7-9 conference. 7

I am writing to you to request that you consider reserving some space for our group at the May conference. The Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting working group (i.e. Jack Willis, Jeff Cohen, Bob McChesney, Bill Hoynes, John Wicklein and me) finally have completed our model proposal for legislating a public broadcasting system that would serve the public and not corporate interest. We have been promised major funding from Bill Moyers at Schumann and Jack Willis at Open Society Institute to launch the campaign with a Washington D.C. office this January.

I will serve on the board of directors and coordinate the organizing of local community accountability projects, with probable funding from the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Foundation. I understand that you will be speaking to the Unitarians soon. Your conference would be an excellent opportunity to present this issue to activists and the general public. We would very much appreciate your consideration.

Also, while it is on my mind. I have yet to be solicited for a contribution to the March CEM conference.

Sincerely,



Jerold M. Starr
Director

Professor of Sociology
West Virginia University