

**E REPORTING ON FOREIGN CRISES AND WARS -- Ann Medina**

We heard Mr. Turner's talk to us and he described a situation during the Gulf War where the phone rang and someone said "This is Gadhafi. I'd like to get on the air please." They thought it was a joke, but it turned out to be Gadhafi. And indeed, he wanted to get on the air and CNN put him on the air. Later, King Hussein of Jordan called, he too wanted to be on the air. He wanted to address something to President Bush. So they had their little think tank, should we put them on, yes they did. What worries me is you get this image of the future of the Larry King talk show where we have King Hussein on line two, we have Gadhafi on line one, who are we going to punch up first. And it isn't absurd, that is what one thinks about as a real possibility: where journalism becomes a kind of talk show forum, with various leaders; and is this the type of forum, where the most fruitful, meaningful and hopefully peaceful kinds of negotiations can take place? I don't know.

But his talk was very smooth. And yes, it is a reality and yes, we cannot turn back the clock or the march of technology. He painted this picture -- and you know those newspaper things where you have to find out what is wrong with the picture. There is this little thing in the back and it is upside down, as a kid you would check them all -- he talked about the "spine of live coverage" and how it packages or how he presents the shows with real reporting, with the reporters and the events around this spine. And what is wrong with this picture? I started feeling maybe that spine is now all there is, that that is the whole body, that that is all that is being presented as information.

These are just a few little reactions, but what I really want to go back to is what I used to do, and that is: what is being a reporter all about? We talk about journalism, we talk about all this money spent, whether it is documentaries or satellites, but I am one of these old-fashioned people who think that there is something at the core. Part of what's at the core and at the foundation is the reporter. And the reporter in the sense that Turner himself described last night in talking about Murrow standing on the roof top doing what? -- being a witness. That is what a reporter is, to me, anyway. What I thought I did was to go around to various places and be a witness. To talk to someone, to see something, to listen to somebody. And say to you, the viewers, this is what I heard, this