

**B THE POWER AND THE GLORY -- Ed Turner**

Last Friday at CNN we received a phone call from the head of the Lithuanian government in Washington who is there to set up his government's liaison with the US and in the call, the man said he just wanted us to know, I'm quoting him now, "that without CNN he did not believe the Baltics and his country in particular would have been free today." I was so taken aback at such a passionate statement, so well-meant and not coming from our own public relations department, that I was reminded at the time of a dinner given in the honour of Dr. Henry Kissinger when a woman came up to him and said, "Dr. Kissinger, thank you for saving the world" and he said, "you're welcome." I said to the man who called so kindly, "you're welcome."

When I sat down to write this little talk in the middle of August I was thinking what a shame that there is nothing new to update, events in the world or at CNN. During the three days of the Soviet coup, if I may chat about that for just a moment, we kept thinking every hour that the plug would be pulled. We knew that CNN was being seen throughout Moscow in the government ministries, in a good many of the hotels and apartment complexes with other cable or satellite dishes. We were also told that many of the republics were putting CNN on their stations for broadcast over the air and running us with translation. Several of the deputies attending the Supreme Soviet said they watched CNN in their home countries. Writing in *Newsweek*, Edward Shevardnadze said "Praised be information technology, praised be CNN." Anyone who owned a parabolic antenna able to receive this network's transmission had a complete picture of what was going on.

Pardon this bit of puffery. The examples serve to tell us again what we already thought. The old world of tyrants and despots cannot isolate themselves any longer. When I asked why we were not unplugged, I was told that the order went down to some mid-level bureaucrat, who was a Gorbachev appointee, and who in effect ignored it with the explanation that to unplug CNN would violate an international contract and he did not have the authority to abrogate that contract. As you know the BBC, VOA and Radio Liberty continue to transmit. Gorbachev said he listened to them. To our dismay, the satellite dish that we had given him was apparently not working.