

**GOVERNMENT  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
PROJECT**

November 10, 1994

Mr. Simon Surowicz  
25 Indian Road Apt. 4  
New York, NY 10034

Dear Mr. Surowicz:

I am writing to let you know how much I appreciate the excellent work you did in producing "Where's the Beef", your program for Dateline that documented the alarming inadequacies in our federal meat inspection system.

I found your program to be a fine example of what television journalism can -- and should be. Your work showed great skill and a deft touch in translating the complex issues associated with this subject into terms that ordinary Americans could understand, without oversimplifying and losing accuracy. As one with considerable professional expertise in the USDA border inspection system and its shortcomings, I was impressed that your program could have such a hard-hitting impact without straying from the facts.

I was also impressed with the extensive research and independent "digging" that obviously went into your production. While the program made good use of the information that my organization and my client provided to you, you clearly did a great deal of additional fact gathering. This is in refreshing contrast to other television producers that I have dealt with, who all too often have been content to rely on what I provide them without developing the story further on their own.

Perhaps the best example of your thorough investigative efforts was your refusal to take USDA officials at their word when they claimed that they ensure America of the safest food in the world. The persuasive counterpoint that you provided from outside experts was not only riveting journalism, but a real contribution to the formulation of better government policy.

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It was a pleasure to work with a skilled and insightful television journalist. As you know, the Government Accountability Project frequently becomes involved in controversial issues of considerable public interest; I would be pleased to collaborate with you in producing other news stories in the future.

Sincerely,

  
Elaine J. Dodge