

NEWS FROM:

C-SPAN AMERICA'S NETWORK

Suite 155 • 400 N. Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

Release: IMMEDIATE
January 22, 1986

Contact: Susan Swain
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(202) 737-3220

-- C-SPAN IN 1985: OVER 4200 HOURS OF FIRST-RUN PROGRAMMING --

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- In 1985, C-SPAN audiences across the country had an increased variety of first-run public affairs programming to choose from -- 4234 hours of original programming, 2010 hours of it LIVE. C-SPAN telecasts of Congressional hearings nearly doubled over those of 1984, offering grassroots America an inside look at the important national issues of 1985 such as tax reform, the Balanced Budget Resolution, the Farm Bill, and others.

In 1985, the variety of C-SPAN's first-run programming included:

- 750 hours of LIVE Viewer Call-in Programs allowing the public to participate in the political process by speaking directly to elected officials, policymakers and political journalists. Guests included Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Energy Secretary Donald Hodel, and Activist Gloria Steinem.
- 962 hours of House and Senate Hearings covering a variety of issues such as the Farm Bill, the controversy over rock lyrics, and the confirmation of Edwin Meese III as U.S. Attorney General.
- 1346 hours of non-congressional public events covering national issues through a variety of forums including: National Press Club speeches, major press conferences, and important seminars and conferences sponsored by organizations such as the Brookings Institution and the American Enterprise Institute. At the Press Club, viewers saw speakers as varied as N.Y. Philharmonic Musical Director Zubin Mehta and former vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro.
- 163 hours of "States of the Nation" events from Washington and 14 other cities which broadened C-SPAN's programming to examine state and local issues. C-SPAN offered telecasts of the National Governors Association Conference, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and more.
- 965 hours of LIVE U.S. House of Representatives gavel-to-gavel proceedings, unedited and without commentary.
- 47 hours of Close Up programs providing young people and their teachers the opportunity to question public leaders on timely issues.

With "States of the Nation '85," C-SPAN traveled to state capitals to explore state issues. Programming Director Carrie Collins says that the network will continue to travel in 1986. "We'll use the experience we gained in 1985 on our trips throughout the U.S. to help us cover the mid-term political races around the country and look at politics beyond Capitol Hill."

C-SPAN's programming is currently available in 23 million homes via some 2000 cable system affiliates.

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X Do we need the "people who think for themselves" part?

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