

# C-SPAN

## *Tenth Anniversary*

1979-1989

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### C-SPAN TO COVER BRITISH PARLIAMENT STARTING IN FALL

#### Network to Air Selected Segments During Experimental Period

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 15 -- C-SPAN, the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network, plans to air portions of the British House of Commons' proceedings starting in November now that the legislative body has approved TV coverage.

The House of Commons voted in June to allow TV coverage on an experimental basis for nine months beginning with its opening session during the second or third week of November.

Parliament has yet to select a specific date for its opening session, which traditionally begins with an address by the British monarch. C-SPAN covered last year's opening speech by Queen Elizabeth II with a special live international telecast.

The approved parliamentary coverage calls for eight cameras to be placed in the House of Commons and operated by an independent operator paid by Parliament. The cost of the experimental coverage bill be paid for by media who use the television feed.

C-SPAN President Brian Lamb said tentative plans call for live airing, when possible, of the Commons' 15-minute "Question Time" from 3:15 to 3:30 p.m. ET on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher handles inquiries from other members of Parliament.

C-SPAN will also air Commons debates of interest to the U.S. audience in their entirety whenever possible, Lamb said.

C-SPAN, a non-profit public service of the cable television industry, started coverage of the U.S. House in 1979 and C-SPAN II began Senate coverage in 1986. House and Senate cameras are controlled and paid for by the Congress, which provides television feeds free of charge. C-SPAN is the only full-time carrier of House and Senate proceedings.



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