

NEWS FROM:

C-SPAN AMERICA'S NETWORK

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

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Contact: SUSAN SWAIN
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-- NEW C-SPAN POLL SHOWS SENATE TV GAINING GROUND --

Senate TV Hearing Scheduled for September 17th

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Sen. Wendell Ford of Kentucky, the ranking Democratic member on the Senate Rules Committee, recently observed that cameras were "soon to be in the Senate, I suspect." A new C-SPAN poll on Senate television indicates that the proposal may indeed be gaining some ground among Senators.

C-SPAN, the non-profit cable network which now carries the televised proceedings of the U.S. House, recently polled all 100 senators on their positions concerning television cameras in the Senate chamber. The results: 62 senators indicated they would support TV in the Senate in some form; 18 responded that they would not support the proposal in any form; 15 "lean against" the proposal; and 5 senators have not yet taken a position on the issue.

These results show a gain of 8 positive votes over the last C-SPAN poll taken in late 1982. In addition, 29 senators listed themselves as "undecided" in 1982; today, only five members of the Senate told C-SPAN they had formed no opinion on the question of Senate broadcasts. C-SPAN conducted one other poll on Senate TV in 1981, shortly after former Sen. Howard Baker proposed the idea.

At the opening of this Congressional session, two senators, Minority Leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia and William Armstrong (R-CO) proposed new resolutions concerning the broadcast of Senate proceedings. The Senate Rules Committee, headed by Sen. Charles Mathias of Maryland, recently announced a September 17 hearing date for the two Senate television proposals.

In 1983, then-C-SPAN Chairman Ed Allen (president of Western Communications) was called before the Senate Rules Committee to testify on C-SPAN's position regarding Senate television. Calling television "an extension of the Senate gallery," Mr. Allen told the committee, "C-SPAN is ready" to carry the signal to its affiliates.

(--MORE--)

CABLE SATELLITE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK

The 1985 C-SPAN poll reveals:

- Among the 53 Republicans: 28 indicated "yes"; 5 said "lean yes"; 9 declared "no" 7 replied "lean no" and 4 remained undecided.
- Among the 47 Democrats: 17 indicated yes; 12 said "lean yes"; 9 declared "no" 8 replied "lean no" and 1 remains undecided.
- Those "leaning no" say they might support Senate TV if certain conditions could be met that would retain the Senate's structure as a deliberative body.
- The Senate television proposal must first be voted out of the Senate Rules Committee. Of the committee's fifteen members, 10 responded "yes/leaning yes"; 5 declared themselves as "no/leaning no."
- 16 of the Senators served in the U.S. House when the vote came up for televising that legislative body. Thirteen of them voted in favor of televising the House and all thirteen indicated a "yes" position to C-SPAN's Senate poll. One senator, Charles Grassley, voted against House television and indicates a negative position on Senate TV. Two Senators were in the House in 1977, but did not vote on television: Sen. Dodd (D-CT), who now responds as "leaning no", and Sen. Symms (R-ID), who indicates a "yes" vote.
- One senator -- Phil Gramm (R-TX) started his House term when the proceedings began to be televised (March 1979). He is now a co-sponsor of Sen. Byrd's television resolution.
- Four senators polled by C-SPAN in 1982 have registered a definite change in their positions: Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) from a "leaning no" to "yes" and authorship of a television resolution; Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-AZ) from a "yes" to a "no" position; Sen. Alan Simpson (R-WY) from "yes" to "leans no"; and Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) from a "no" position to a "yes" in 1985.

C-SPAN has carried the live proceedings of the U.S. House since March of 1979 and also offers a variety of other public affairs programming. The Washington, D.C.-based cable network is currently carried on 2,000 cable systems in the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Canada. Viewers in more than 21.5 million cable households can watch C-SPAN's round-the-clock programming.



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Resolutions Introduced in 99th Congress Concerning Senate TV

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1) Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV), the Senate Minority Leader, introduced Senate Resolution 2 on January 3, 1985, calling for selected broadcast coverage of the Senate, to be decided upon by the majority and minority leaders. S.R. 2 has now been reassigned as S. Res. 28/29, incorporating some changes in Senate rules. Currently, Sen. Byrd has two co-sponsors to his resolution. His proposal is scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Rules Committee on Sept. 17.

2) Senator William Armstrong (R-CO) introduced Senate Resolution 81 on February 27, 1985, which would establish regulations to implement full TV and radio coverage of Senate proceedings. This is the same proposal Senator Howard Baker supported, calling for gavel-to-gavel coverage except when a closed door session is ordered. It is a measure similar to the one that initiated House coverage in 1977. At last count, S.R. 81 had 17 co-sponsors -- 4 Democrats and 13 Republicans. The proposal has gone to the Senate Rules Committee, and Sen. Armstrong is expected to testify on the issue during the Sept. 17 Rules Committee hearing.

INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM C-SPAN'S SURVEY OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Most of what is being done with regard to the televising of state legislature proceedings is through public broadcasting stations. At this point in time no cable operator has begun gavel-to-gavel coverage of its state legislative proceedings. Only two of fifty states seem to have gavel-to-gavel televising of their state's legislative proceedings: Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

In Massachusetts, WGBX of Boston (channel 44), covers the Boston legislature gavel-to-gavel. WGBX is the UHF extension of WGBH. Stuart Cleland and Christina Brachiale have acted as the state's agent in designing and equipping the programming. They have wired the House chamber as well as two committee hearing rooms, and have equipped them with remote control cameras.

In Rhode Island, the statehouse proceedings are placed on the state-wide interconnect and distributed to all Rhode Island cable systems. According to Richard Tuthill of the Rhode Island Cable Television Association, not only are the state proceedings televised, but also 30 hours of state related programming.

Other public affairs programming....

→ Susan - I don't know much about what's going on in Hartford, CT. One contact that I have is

The state cable association of Oregon is taping interviews with legislators and playing them on several public access channels.

Mr. Al Wiersma
United Cable TV
203/747-4509

According to Tom Graves, Dir. of Gov't Relations at Heritage Communications Des Moines, IA, "Heritage is considering a plan for regular telecasts. They now do a 30 minute show, weekly."

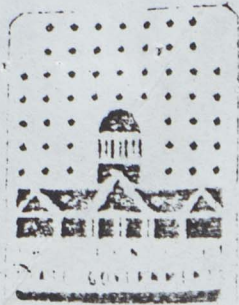
In Annapolis, MD, Prime Cable is building a studio to do more live public affairs-type programming. At present they cablecast a weekly 1 hour show on state, county and city issues. They are in the process of planning to extend this programming to at least 2 hours per week adding interviews with politician and issue experts.

In Concord, NH, Continental Cablevision picks up feed from a local PBS affiliate. The PBS station covers the major debates in the house and the system tapes it and condenses it into a ½ hour program. The system also has weekly programming consisting of a ½ hour show entitled "The State of the State," which covers state/gubernatorial issues. "Washington Reports" is also the name of an occasional "news" show which covers state issues through the New Hampshire delegation in Washington, D.C. Cong. Judd Gregg hosts these shows from Washington.

The North Carolina Agency for Public Telecommunications airs a weekly program on Friday from 8-10pm called "Open-Net," when the state legislature is in session. This program is placed on the state interconnect and Cablevision of Raleigh airs the programming.

KRMA-TV (channel 6) a PBS station in Denver, CO produces a ½ hour program called "Stateline" and another called "State of Colorado," Ron Salak is the Director of Programming.

Coverage of the state legislature in Madison, WI is covered by WHA-TV, a local PBS channel.



Some lawmakers say camera encourages livelier debates, decorum during proceedings

By George B. Merry

Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor
Boston

American legislators, some of whom used to put their feet on their desks, now are putting their best foot forward — on television.

Electronic cameras have moved into hearing rooms and lawmaking chambers with increasing frequency.

The intent is not to make TV stars out of politicians but to bring viewers, who might never visit Congress or their state capitol, closer to the lawmaking scene.

All but a handful of states now allow at least modest television coverage of legislative proceedings. The US House of Representatives similarly has opened up its sessions. And if Senate majority leader Howard H. Baker has his way, floor action within his chamber will be televised on a regular basis.

Not all legislators are pleased with the increased exposure. But those close to the scene say coverage is affecting media-wise lawmakers, who are scheduling key debates during television's prime viewing hours, improving decorum and sharpening their debates.

"Everybody's on his toes and usually better prepared," is how one veteran Florida legislative observer puts it.

Coverage varies widely from state to state both in scope and extent — ranging from gavel-to-gavel floor debate to limited out-of-chamber sessions such as caucuses and committee hearings.

At least 52 of the nation's 99 state legislative bodies — 32 senates and 30 houses of representatives — permit TV coverage on fairly frequent occasions, if not regularly.

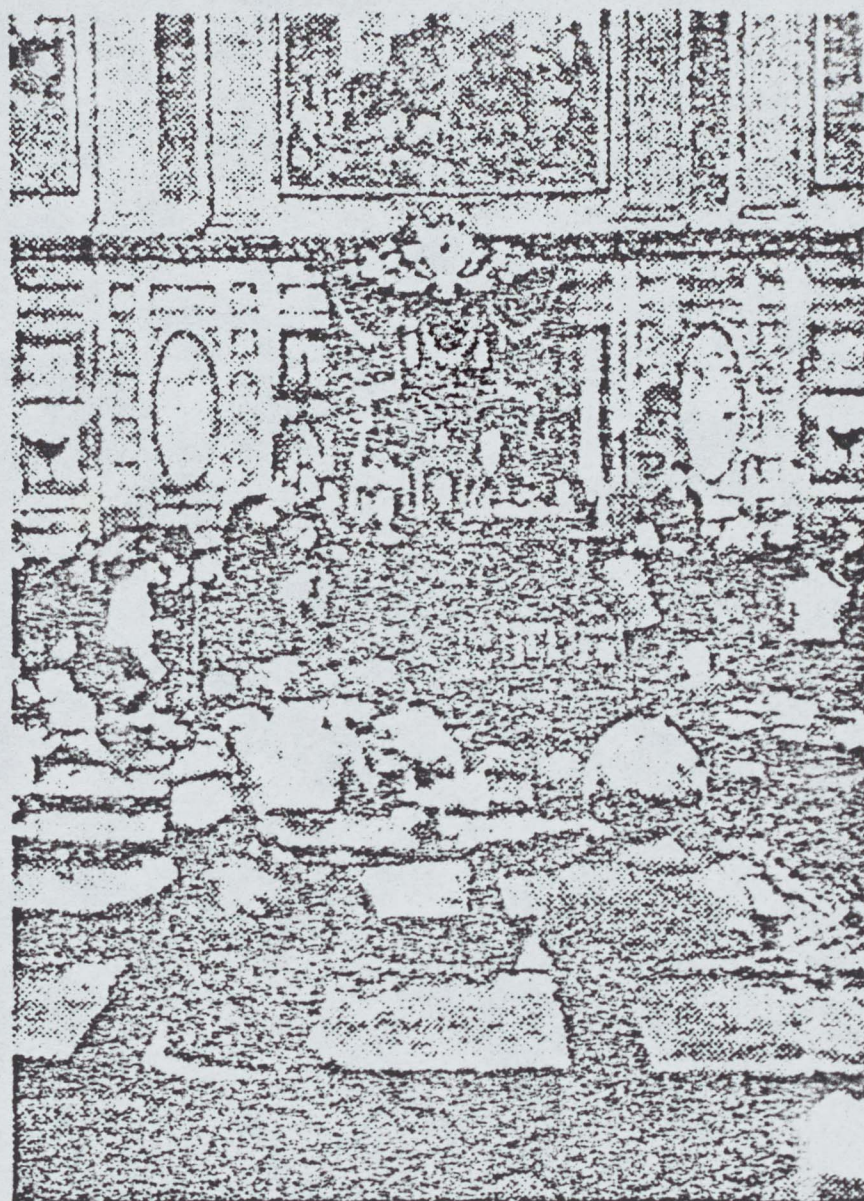
Coverage from spectator galleries is allowed by 35 state senates and 36 houses, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

States where taped segments or live legislative floor action is provided on a fairly regular basis include Alaska, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Washington, and West Virginia.

Only a small fraction of the legislative goings-on, however, are presented for home viewing even by public television stations, which usually have more time in their programming schedule for such coverage than commercial channels.

Except on special occasions, such as a governor's inaugural message, proceedings are not broadcast live, but taped and edited for use later in the day or week. Some states, however, offer full and continuing coverage over a closed-circuit hookup in offices throughout their capitols.

No more naps and feet on the desk when TV looks on state legislatures



Massachusetts House

By a staff photographer

They're politicians, not TV stars

In Florida, for example, the presiding officer in each legislative chamber has a tiny screen at the rostrum by which he has instant access to what is going on in the other legislative branch. With the flick of a switch the governor, too, can keep tabs on debate without leaving his office.

Highlights of the day's debate and other major developments are beamed via satellite on nine public television stations around the state in a nightly, hour-long program. "Today in the Legislature," now in its ninth year, has one of the largest audiences in the state although it may never attract more viewers than the "Johnny Carson Show" or "Sixty Minutes".

The effort is not to cater to individual lawmakers but rather to tell as complete a story of what is happening, explains Harold Baker, executive director of Florida Public Television.

"We have total control over the content," he explains, noting that in the five years he has been associated with the entirely legislature-funded operation "only one legislator has complained about the coverage." That lawmaker, whom he declined to identify, was concerned over not getting enough attention.

Similar nightly programs zeroing in on lawmaking proceedings are presented in at least 10 other states during legislative sittings.

Weekly, hour-long or half-hour programs devoted substantially and in some instances entirely to legislative happenings, including interviews with decisionmakers, segments of debate, and analysis, are available to viewers in 11 other states.

Most are generally on a smaller scale than in Florida, where coverage involves a 38-member team of reporters, editors, producers, and technicians.

Although no two formats are the same, most are of the news magazine type. They offer a blend of state lawmaker activity and issue-oriented discussions involving various state agencies.

Legislative coverage on TV is considered particularly outstanding both in terms of extent and treatment in Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania, as well as Florida.

"Prime Time," the nightly public television news program now carried by five stations in the Nutmeg State, devotes considerable time showing what the legislature is doing. In addition "the People's Business," a half-hour weekly presentation, provides viewers with edited film of major lawmaking activities coupled with background information and interpretation.

As in most other states where substantial TV access to lawmaking proceedings is permitted, program producers are free to cover what they choose without political interference.

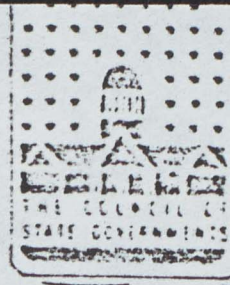
With the increased possibility of television coverage, Connecticut legislative leaders have tended to schedule key debates during prime time.

Instead of the usual news magazine format the coverage in some states is confined largely to lawmaker interviews and debates involving those on both sides of current legislative issues. In Mississippi, for example, two state senators and two representatives are questioned on predetermined topics by a reporter, with at least half of the hour-long weekly program open for call-in questions from viewers.

The cost of in-depth legislative coverage in most states is borne by local public television stations, although sometimes supplemented by direct state appropriations or private contributions.

One notable exception is in New York. "Inside Albany," the Empire State's prime public television coverage of legislative happenings, is underwritten 75 percent by commercial interests.

SIC Source



INFO-Key
LEGISLATURE
TV IN THE LEGISLATURE

Date Collected: 4/16/84 Filing Code: _____

State Legislatures, 3/84, page 5

Source of Information: _____

Content

TV COVERAGE OF THE LEGISLATURES

Massachusetts -- coverage of the MA House sessions is scheduled to begin in March 1984.

North Carolina -- NC's Agency for Public Telecommunications is developing programs for cable subscribers featuring legislators and state officials answering telephone inquiries from viewers.

Florida -- public broadcasting system offers one hour of daily coverage of legislative sessions, plus a 30-minute satellite broadcast in both English and Spanish.

Officials
answering
inquiries

English and
Spanish

Special Comments

States Information Center
The Council of State Governments
Iron Works Pike, P.O. Box 11910
Lexington, Kentucky 40578
(606) 252-2291

Information Collected by RO



Press Access to the Chamber Floor in the State Legislatures
(January 1983)

State	SENATE			HOUSE		
	Special Floor Space	Circulate During Session	Circulate During Recess	Special Floor Space	Circulate During Session	Circulate During Recess
Alabama	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes
Alaska	yes	no	no	yes	no	no
Arizona	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes
Arkansas	yes	no*	no	yes	no	no
California	yes	no*	no	yes	no*	yes
Colorado	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no
Connecticut	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Delaware	yes	no*	yes	yes	no	yes
Florida	no	no	yes	no	no*	yes
Georgia	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Hawaii	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no
Idaho	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes
Illinois	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes
Indiana	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Iowa	yes	no	no	yes	no*	no
Kansas	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Kentucky	yes	no*	yes	yes	no	yes
Louisiana	yes	no	no	yes	no*	no
Maine	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes
Maryland	yes	no	no	yes	no*	no
Massachusetts	yes	no*	no	yes	no*	no
Michigan	yes	no*	no	yes	no	yes
Minnesota	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes
Mississippi	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no
Missouri	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes
Montana	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes
Nebraska	yes	yes	yes	(unicameral legislature)		
Nevada	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
New Hampshire	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes
New Jersey	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
New Mexico	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes
New York	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
North Carolina	yes	no*	no	yes	no*	yes
North Dakota	no	no	yes	no	no*	no
Ohio	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes
Oklahoma	no	no	no	no	no*	no
Oregon	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Pennsylvania	yes	no	no	yes	no*	yes
Rhode Island	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes
South Carolina	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes
South Dakota	yes	no*	no	yes	no*	no
Tennessee	yes	no*	yes	yes	no*	no
Texas	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Utah	yes	no*	yes	yes	no*	yes
Vermont	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Virginia	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes
Washington	yes	no	yes	yes	no*	no
West Virginia	yes	no*	yes	yes	no*	yes
Wisconsin	no	no	no	yes	no*	no
Wyoming	yes	no*	yes	yes	no*	yes

* Camera men and photographers are allowed on floor with permission of presiding officer.
Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

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AM PAPERS/ MONDAY, AUGUST 19

SENATE TV?

... C-SPAN'S NEW SURVEY ON THE QUESTION OF TELEVISIONING THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE....

SPECIAL NOTES: THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE HAS SCHEDULED A HEARING
ON SENATE TELEVISION ON SEPTEMBER 17.

C-SPAN VIEWERS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE
THEIR OPINIONS ON THE ISSUE DURING A VIEWER CALL-IN
PROGRAM ON AUGUST 22 AT 9:00 PM, EDT.

CABLE SATELLITE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK



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QUOTES FROM SENATORS REGARDING THE QUESTION OF TELEVISION IN THE SENATE

ALABAMA

Senator Howell Heflin (D) -- "If you have greater security, less observation from the gallery, then there's more of a reason for having the proceedings televised."
(In light of the Capitol bombing C-SPAN UPDATE, 11/21/83)*

Senator Jeremiah Denton (R) -- "If you could see the Senate floor, granted some of these guys, including myself, might become actors and get out there and act like idiots, but I don't think so. I believe it would give the people the advantage of seeing what's going on."
(Interview with Alabama Information Network reporter Carol Bennett, 7/85)

ALASKA

Senator Ted Stevens (R) -- "Anchorage is closer to Tokyo than it is to Washington D.C.... Our people ought to know what's going on...so, I do support television."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83)*

ARIZONA

Senator Barry Goldwater (R) -- "If you come up with a way to televise the Senate, other than the way you televise the House, I would like to hear it. I don't think it looks good to have a man standing up there speaking with no one else around him....I'm not exactly supportive of Senate televising, but a lot would depend on the technical presentation of how you intend to do it."
(Letter to C-SPAN, 3/20/85)

Senator Dennis DeConcini (D) -- "Well, I happen to be co-sponsor of the legislation that would televise the Senate (S.R. 81) and I hope we could pass that... I think it is in the public interest for a lot of reasons...."
(C-SPAN call-in 1/19/83)

CALIFORNIA

Senator Alan Cranston (D) -- "Senate proceedings should be open to television coverage. I believe in the people's right to know what's going on in their government. And I believe it is the duty of the government officials to tell them. More than that, I believe that the people should, where possible, be allowed to see for themselves. There's altogether too much of a mystery made about government....But...I am adamant that that coverage be fair coverage."
(Congressional Record, 9/21/83)

* Each C-SPAN UPDATE quote came from the Senator's appearance on one of the network's call-in or interview programs.

THE CABLE SATELLITE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK

(over)

COLORADO

Senator William Armstrong (R) -- "If the House of Lords, which has been an institution since the 11th Century can take its debates to the homes of British citizens, the U.S. Senate should do likewise."
(Senator's press release, 1/25/85)

CONNECTICUT

Senator Lowell Weicker (R) -- "I support television in the Senate. I think it's the communication of our generation. It's the first-hand dialogue, rather than going through an intermediary - the press...I think everything we do to make government relevant to this day and age rather than to just rely on the past is all to the strengthening of democracy."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 11/21/83)*

Senator Christopher Dodd (D) -- "The rules of the Senate I feel would probably have to be changed to accomodate television.. Now while certainly it is important for people to have information about what goes on on the floor of the Senate, I would suggest that today most of the business goes on in committee where television is allowed."
(C-SPAN call-in, 8/3/83)

FLORIDA

Senator Lawton Chiles (D) -- "I support the idea of Senate broadcasts. As a Senator identified with the sunshine law and open committee meetings, I commend any effort to make the process of government more accessible to the public."
(Congressional Record, 9/21/84)

GEORGIA

Senator Mack Mattingly (R) -- "...I am not irrevocably opposed to any and all broadcast of the U.S. Senate. I am opposed to Senate Resolution 66, which would authorize gavel-to-gavel coverage without addressing the almost certain rules changes that would be forced by such coverage."
(Congressional Record, 9/21/84)

HAWAII

Senator Spark Matsunaga (D) -- "Previous to introduction of TV cameras in the House, the Senate was much better known. Now the members of the House are becoming better known than those in the Senate...I think this (TV) would be a good thing."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 3/18/85)*

IDAHO

Senator Steven Symms (R) -- "I personally favor it...I see no reason why it wouldn't be an extension of America's ability to participate in its system."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83)*

Senator James McClure (R) -- "Television cameras are the eyes and ears of the American people...and the time for opening the Senate's doors to the public is long overdue. It's as if the Senate is mired in the horse and buggy days."
(Senator's press release, 9/17/84)

(MORE)

ILLINOIS

Senator Alan Dixon (D) -- "Yes, under the kind of rules where the majority leader and the minority leader would control how it was done."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 11/21/83)*

Senator Paul Simon (D) -- "I think people are entitled to see what we're doing.... I think the idea of opening the process up as much as possible was a good one for the politicians and the American public."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 1/21/83) *

INDIANA

Senator Richard Lugar (R) -- "...The principle of openness, the ability of the public to hear what is occurring, is a very important situation and I think we can work through the technical aspects and open the Senate to the public."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 11/21/83)*

IOWA

Senator Tom Harkin (D) -- "I don't think you're going to see the kind of gavel-to-gavel coverage in the Senate that you have in the House, simply because the Senate operates differently, and I think a lot of people get bored watching the way the Senate operatesBut I do believe we'll have television coverage in the Senate of the major debates, like the budget, defense, agriculture, and foreign aid billsI think that will happen in the next couple of years. I hope so -- I'm all in favor of it."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 5/20/85) *

KENTUCKY

Senator Wendell Ford (D) -- "The next thing you will want to do is open the President's cabinet meetings and want TV in there."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83)*

LOUISIANA

Senator Russell Long (D) -- "The Senate is not able to get its work done now. It would be even worse if the Senate were on television."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83)*

MISSISSIPPI

Senator John Stennis (D) -- "It's just not the place for the cameras to be.... The record's there, you know, and it's all spoken...."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83)*

MISSOURI

Senator John Danforth (R) -- "I hope it's not going to be a reality. I think it's a terrible idea....There would be a temptation to more filibuster, not less."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83)*

Senator Thomas Eagleton (D) -- "I have taken a position opposing televising Senate proceedings on the floor....I think my voting record from last session speaks for itself."

(Letter in response to 1985 C-SPAN survey)

(over)

MONTANA

Senator John Melcher (D) -- "It's absolutely pitiful that we haven't made arrangements in the Senate for live filming so that people across the country can view what the activities of the Senate are and the sense of debate and issues as the Senate sees it."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 1/23/84) *

NEBRASKA

Senator Edward Zorinsky (D) -- "...I'm for opening up the Senate for television -- so all the people can see what takes place in a filibuster and how you can read recipes out of a cookbook when it costs \$490.00 a page to print the Congressional Record...I come from the business world, and if I ran my business like this place is run, my, I'd have gone broke a long time ago."

(C-SPAN call-in, 3/18/83)

NORTH CAROLINA

Senator John East (R) -- "I have an open mind on it....Right now I'm not convinced that it's a good idea."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

OKLAHOMA

Senator Don Nickles (R) -- "I'm fairly divided on the issue...but would be somewhat supportive with some modifications in the Senate rules or limitations on coverage...Half the Senate floor is running for President. I'd hate to think they can sit on the floor of the Senate and make a speech and not have to work at it."

(Interview with Tulsa Tribune reporter Brad Phelps, 5/85)

RHODE ISLAND

Senator John Chafee (R) -- "Yes, we will vote on TV in the Senate and I think it will pass...I tilt toward it."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

SOUTH CAROLINA

Senator Ernest Hollings (D) -- "I would favor it on an agreed basis by the leadership for the important issues...Constant televising would deter us from getting our work done."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

TENNESSEE

Senator Albert Gore (D) -- "This must be accomplished. It may take some time, but it's essential to the public interest."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 1/21/83) *

UTAH

Senator Orrin Hatch (R) -- "I intend to vote for open coverage of the Senate floor. I personally believe the public has a right to know."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

(MORE)

VIRGINIA

Senator Paul Trible (R) -- "I will vote for it. I served in the House for six years and I think television coverage was important."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

Senator John Warner (R) -- "I shall support the Majority Leader in his effort to bring television in some fashion into the U.S. Senate."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

WEST VIRGINIA

Senator Robert Byrd (D) -- "I'd like to see the Senate move into the 20th Century."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 1/21/85) *

WYOMING

Senator Alan Simpson (R) -- "The one fear that I have is that our effectiveness in committee will be totally destroyed."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

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* Senators' remarks made during a call-in program appearance and reported in C-SPAN UPDATE.



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A CHRONOLOGY OF HOUSE TV COVERAGE

Television coverage of Congress was discussed for thirty years before it came to the floor for a vote. Serious discussion of the concept lasted for nearly six years. Here's a look at the timeline of the debate and the modifications that continue to occur:

- 1944 -- Senator Claude Pepper (D-FL) proposes that Congressional proceedings be covered by radio.
- 1948 -- Senator Pepper proposes that Congressional proceedings be covered by television cameras; proposal makes little progress.
- 1961-62 -- House Rules Committee members informally discuss broadcast coverage of House sessions. No action taken.
- 1969 -- Broadcast coverage is discussed seriously during House Reorganization Act hearings. The issue became so controversial that it was dropped. However, the act did establish rules for coverage of House Committee hearings.
- 1974 -- House Judiciary Committee televises Nixon impeachment hearings during late summer, attracting much attention and reviving the idea of televising legislative bodies.
- 1974-75 -- Joint Committee on Congressional Operations, co-chaired by Rep. Jack Brooks (D-TX), recommends television coverage of House floor. Resolutions introduced in both Houses of Congress. Brooks' resolution goes to the House Rules Committee.
- 1975 -- An Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the House Rules Committee undertakes an extensive study of broadcasting.
- 1976 -- The subcommittee recommends coverage of House floor using a network pool. The resolution was never voted out of committee.
- March 1977 -- House authorizes a test for the audiovisual broadcast of floor proceedings. Rep. Jack Brooks experiments with covering the House floor through closed-circuit "surveillance" cameras. Results of 90-day trial run are unsatisfactory -- video quality is poor and visibility is restricted to Capitol offices.
- June 1977 -- As a result of the test, Rep. Gillis Long (D-LA) introduces H.Res. 821 in the Rules Committee, providing for in-house coverage of floor proceedings. Rules Committee considers resolution, holds hearings, amends, and reports out a clean bill, H.Res. 866, and orders it sent to the floor for passage.

THE CABLE SATELLITE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK

(cont.)

October 1977 -- Resolution (H.Res. 866) passes House by a vote of 342-44, permitting broadcast coverage of House proceedings. Speaker given control of type of coverage; clause included prohibiting use of broadcasts for "political and commercial" purposes. Resolution authorizes Rules Committee to report back to House by February of 1978 its recommendations for the broadcast system.

February 1978 -- Rules Committee report determines policy on House tapes and camera operations. They place the cameras under the Speaker's control rather than allowing the networks to control and operate them. Cameras to remain strictly on the person speaking, and during voting periods, the floor activity will not be shown.

June 1978 -- On legislation appropriating funds to implement broadcasting system, House upholds House operated system by a vote of 235-150.

June 1978 -- Speaker authorizes full audio distribution to media.

March 1979 -- House proceedings begin to be televised regularly, gavel-to-gavel, via C-SPAN cable network.

May 1984 -- Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D-MA) orders cameras to pan chamber during "special orders" period, taking camera off debater for the first time in five years of television coverage.

May 1985 -- Resolution introduced by Rep. Trent Lott (R-MS) passes, allowing television cameras to show the floor activity during voting periods.

July 1985 -- House adopts rule to test methods of presenting a more accurate, verbatim account of the day's speeches in the Congressional Record. This change is made as a result of the "factual electronic record" provided by C-SPAN's gavel-to-gavel TV coverage of the House of Representatives.

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A CHRONOLOGY OF HOUSE TV COVERAGE

Television coverage of Congress was discussed for thirty years before it came to the floor for a vote. Serious discussion of the concept lasted for nearly six years. Here's a look at the timeline of the debate and the modifications that continue to occur:

- 1944 -- Senator Claude Pepper (D-FL) proposes that Congressional proceedings be covered by radio.
- 1948 -- Senator Pepper proposes that Congressional proceedings be covered by television cameras; proposal makes little progress.
- 1961-62 -- House Rules Committee members informally discuss broadcast coverage of House sessions. No action taken.
- 1969 -- Broadcast coverage is discussed seriously during House Reorganization Act hearings. The issue became so controversial that it was dropped. However, the act did establish rules for coverage of House Committee hearings.
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THE CABLE SATELLITE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK

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Senate TV Op-ed pieces and press paks mailed to: (fed ex)

1) Jim Wright
Dallas Morning News
Communications Center
Dallas, TX 75265

ran piece

2) Joanna Wragg
Associate Editor
Miami Herald
Herald Plaze
Miami, FL 33101

3) Tom Gagen
Op Ed Page Editor
Boston Globe
135 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02107

4) Bob Ewegen
Editorial Writer
The Denver Post
650-15th Street
Denver, CO 80201

ran piece

5) Cynthia Marquand
Christian Science Monitor
One Norway Street
Boston, MA 02115

ran editorial

6) Stephens Broening
Editor, Opinions & Commentary
The Baltimore Sun
P.O. Box 1377
Baltimore, MD 21278

7) Ferel Gullory
Assoicate Editor
News & Observer
212 S. McDowell Street
Raleigh, NC

8) Beth Barber
Editorial Writer
Richmond Times Dispatch
333 Grace Street
Rochmond, VA 23219

Charlie McDowell column

9) Karen Spies
Editorial Page Editor
Topeka Capitl Journal
6th & Jefferson Street
Topeka, KS 66607

10) Kay Mills
Editorial Page
The Los Angeles Times
Times Mirror Square
Los Angeles, CA 90053

11) Bill Carlile
Arizona Republic
120 E. Van Buren
Phoenix AZ

12) Mary Stephenson
Editorial Page Editor
The Idaho Statesman
1200 N. Curtis
Boise, ID 83707

ran op ed

13) David Greenfiled
Charleston Daily Mail
1001 Virginia Avenue, East
Charleston, WVA

14) Lloyd Armor
Executive Editor
The Tennessean
1100 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37202

15) Virginia Hall
Op=Ed Editor
Kansas City Times
1729 Grand Avenue
Kansas City, MO

16) Fran Gardner
Forum Section
The Oregonian
Portland, OR 97201

17) Harry Fuller
Editorial Writer
Salt Lake Tribune
143 S. Main
Salt Lake City, UT 84110

whole op ed page!

18) David Hollwerk
Editorial Page Editor
Lexington Herald Leader
Main & Midland Ave
Lexington, KY 40507

Senate TV Op-Ed Piece (Cont._)

19) Brian Dickenson
Editorial Page Editor
Journal Bulletin
71 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02902

20) Lois Wille
Opinion & Commentary
The Chicago Tribune
435 N. Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60611

21) Joan Beck
Editorial Writer
Chicago Tribune
435 N. Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60611



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QUOTES FROM SENATORS REGARDING THE QUESTION OF TELEVISION IN THE SENATE

ALABAMA

Senator Howell Heflin (D) -- "If you have greater security, less observation from the gallery, then there's more of a reason for having the proceedings televised."

(In light of the Capitol bombing C-SPAN UPDATE, 11/21/83)*

Senator Jeremiah Denton (R) -- "If you could see the Senate floor, granted some of these guys, including myself, might become actors and get out there and act like idiots, but I don't think so. I believe it would give the people the advantage of seeing what's going on."

(Interview with Alabama Information Network reporter Carol Bennett, 7/85)

ALASKA

Senator Ted Stevens (R) -- "Anchorage is closer to Tokyo than it is to Washington D.C.... Our people ought to know what's going on...so, I do support television."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83)*

ARIZONA

Senator Barry Goldwater (R) -- "If you come up with a way to televise the Senate, other than the way you televise the House, I would like to hear it. I don't think it looks good to have a man standing up there speaking with no one else around him....I'm not exactly supportive of Senate televising, but a lot would depend on the technical presentation of how you intend to do it."

(Letter to C-SPAN, 3/20/85)

Senator Dennis DeConcini (D) -- "Well, I happen to be co-sponsor of the legislation that would televise the Senate (S.R. 81) and I hope we could pass that... I think it is in the public interest for a lot of reasons...."

(C-SPAN call-in 1/19/83)

CALIFORNIA

Senator Alan Cranston (D) -- "Senate proceedings should be open to television coverage. I believe in the people's right to know what's going on in their government. And I believe it is the duty of the government officials to tell them. More than that, I believe that the people should, where possible, be allowed to see for themselves. There's altogether too much of a mystery made about government....But...I am adamant that that coverage be fair coverage."

(Congressional Record, 9/21/83)

* Each C-SPAN UPDATE quote came from the Senator's appearance on one of the network's call-in or interview programs.

COLORADO

Senator William Armstrong (R) -- "If the House of Lords, which has been an institution since the 11th Century can take its debates to the homes of British citizens, the U.S. Senate should do likewise."

(Senator's press release, 1/25/85)

CONNECTICUT

Senator Lowell Weicker (R) -- "I support television in the Senate. I think it's the communication of our generation. It's the first-hand dialogue, rather than going through an intermediary - the press...I think everything we do to make government relevant to this day and age rather than to just rely on the past is all to the strengthening of democracy."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 11/21/83)*

Senator Christopher Dodd (D) -- "The rules of the Senate I feel would probably have to be changed to accomodate television...Now while certainly it is important for people to have information about what goes on on the floor of the Senate, I would suggest that today most of the business goes on in committee where television is allowed."

(C-SPAN call-in, 8/3/83)

FLORIDA

Senator Lawton Chiles (D) -- "I support the idea of Senate broadcasts. As a Senator identified with the sunshine law and open committee meetings, I commend any effort to make the process of government more accessible to the public."

(Congressional Record, 9/21/84)

GEORGIA

Senator Mack Mattingly (R) -- "...I am not irrevocably opposed to any and all broadcast of the U.S. Senate. I am opposed to Senate Resolution 66, which would authorize gavel-to-gavel coverage without addressing the almost certain rules changes that would be forced by such coverage."

(Congressional Record, 9/21/84)

HAWAII

Senator Spark Matsunaga (D) -- "Previous to introduction of TV cameras in the House, the Senate was much better known. Now the members of the House are becoming better known than those in the Senate...I think this (TV) would be a good thing."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 3/18/85)*

IDAHO

Senator Steven Symms (R) -- "I personally favor it...I see no reason why it wouldn't be an extension of America's ability to participate in its system."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83)*

Senator James McClure (R) -- "Television cameras are the eyes and ears of the American people...and the time for opening the Senate's doors to the public is long overdue. It's as if the Senate is mired in the horse and buggy days."

(Senator's press release, 9/17/84)

(MORE)

ILLINOIS

Senator Alan Dixon (D) -- "Yes, under the kind of rules where the majority leader and the minority leader would control how it was done."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 11/21/83)*

Senator Paul Simon (D) -- "I think people are entitled to see what we're doing.... I think the idea of opening the process up as much as possible was a good one for the politicians and the American public."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 1/21/83) *

INDIANA

Senator Richard Lugar (R) -- "...The principle of openness, the ability of the public to hear what is occurring, is a very important situation and I think we can work through the technical aspects and open the Senate to the public."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 11/21/83)*

IOWA

Senator Tom Harkin (D) -- "I don't think you're going to see the kind of gavel-to-gavel coverage in the Senate that you have in the House, simply because the Senate operates differently, and I think a lot of people get bored watching the way the Senate operatesBut I do believe we'll have television coverage in the Senate of the major debates, like the budget, defense, agriculture, and foreign aid billsI think that will happen in the next couple of years. I hope so -- I'm all in favor of it."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 5/20/85) *

KENTUCKY

Senator Wendell Ford (D) -- "The next thing you will want to do is open the President's cabinet meetings and want TV in there."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83)*

LOUISIANA

Senator Russell Long (D) -- "The Senate is not able to get its work done now. It would be even worse if the Senate were on television."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83)*

MISSISSIPPI

Senator John Stennis (D) -- "It's just not the place for the cameras to be.... The record's there, you know, and it's all spoken...."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83)*

MISSOURI

Senator John Danforth (R) -- "I hope it's not going to be a reality. I think it's a terrible idea....There would be a temptation to more filibuster, not less."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83)*

Senator Thomas Eagleton (D) -- "I have taken a position opposing televising Senate proceedings on the floor....I think my voting record from last session speaks for itself."
(Letter in response to 1985 C-SPAN survey)

(over)

MONTANA

Senator John Melcher (D) -- "It's absolutely pitiful that we haven't made arrangements in the Senate for live filming so that people across the country can view what the activities of the Senate are and the sense of debate and issues as the Senate sees it."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 1/23/84) *

NEBRASKA

Senator Edward Zorinsky (D) -- "...I'm for opening up the Senate for television -- so all the people can see what takes place in a filibuster and how you can read recipes out of a cookbook when it costs \$490.00 a page to print the Congressional Record...I come from the business world, and if I ran my business like this place is run, my, I'd have gone broke a long time ago."

(C-SPAN call-in, 3/18/83)

NORTH CAROLINA

Senator John East (R) -- "I have an open mind on it....Right now I'm not convinced that it's a good idea."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

OKLAHOMA

Senator Don Nickles (R) -- "I'm fairly divided on the issue...but would be somewhat supportive with some modifications in the Senate rules or limitations on coverage...Half the Senate floor is running for President. I'd hate to think they can sit on the floor of the Senate and make a speech and not have to work at it."

(Interview with Tulsa Tribune reporter Brad Phelps, 5/85)

RHODE ISLAND

Senator John Chafee (R) -- "Yes, we will vote on TV in the Senate and I think it will pass...I tilt toward it."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

SOUTH CAROLINA

Senator Ernest Hollings (D) -- "I would favor it on an agreed basis by the leadership for the important issues...Constant televising would deter us from getting our work done."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

TENNESSEE

Senator Albert Gore (D) -- "This must be accomplished. It may take some time, but it's essential to the public interest."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 1/21/83) *

UTAH

Senator Orrin Hatch (R) -- "I intend to vote for open coverage of the Senate floor. I personally believe the public has a right to know."

(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

(MORE)

VIRGINIA

Senator Paul Tribble (R) -- "I will vote for it. I served in the House for six years and I think television coverage was important."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

Senator John Warner (R) -- "I shall support the Majority Leader in his effort to bring television in some fashion into the U.S. Senate."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

WEST VIRGINIA

Senator Robert Byrd (D) -- "I'd like to see the Senate move into the 20th Century."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 1/21/85) *

WYOMING

Senator Alan Simpson (R) -- "The one fear that I have is that our effectiveness in committee will be totally destroyed."
(C-SPAN UPDATE, 10/31/83) *

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RECENT QUOTES FROM SENATORS ON SENATE TV

NEW JERSEY

Senator Bill Bradley (D) -- "A few years ago, I strongly felt that it would be a mistake if television came to the Senate. I'm not so sure whether it would be that big of a mistake....I'm kind of reserving my judgement. The public certainly has a right to know and I think it would be very interesting if they could see the Senate in action in a way that didn't distort the procedures."
(C-SPAN call-in 10/11/85)

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* Senators' remarks made during a call-in program appearance and reported in C-SPAN UPDATE.