

News Release

C-SPAN

Tenth Anniversary
1979-1989

Contact: Gene Grabowski
Kristin Wennberg
202-737-3220

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

C-SPAN TO COVER BRITISH PARLIAMENT IF TV VOTE IS AFFIRMATIVE

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 8 -- C-SPAN, the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network, plans to air portions of the British House of Commons' proceedings beginning in November if that legislative body approves TV coverage in a vote scheduled for Monday, June 12.

In May, a House of Commons select committee to study televised coverage approved plans to air legislative proceedings and issued a report stipulating rules of coverage.

That report 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 interested media who will use the television feed.

In the British parliamentary system, the House of Commons is equivalent to the U.S. House of Representatives. The Parliament's upper chamber, the House of Lords, is similar to the U.S. Senate.

Last year, C-SPAN aired Queen Elizabeth's speech to Parliament, which officially opens the legislative term in Britain.

C-SPAN, a non-profit cooperative 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.

- 30 -

News Release

C-SPAN

Tenth Anniversary

1979-1989

Contact: Gene Grabowski
Kristin Wennberg
202-737-3220

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

C-SPAN TO COVER BRITISH PARLIAMENT STARTING IN FALL

Network to Air Selected Segments During Experimental Period

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 13 -- C-SPAN, the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network, plans to air portions of the British House of Commons' proceedings beginning in November now that the legislative body has approved TV coverage.

On a 293-69 vote, the House of Commons voted Monday to allow TV coverage on an experimental basis for nine months beginning with its opening session in 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 interested media who will use the television feed.

In the British parliamentary system, the House of Commons holds most of the government's power. Its leader is Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The Parliament's upper chamber, the House of Lords, holds a mostly ceremonial position in the government. It has allowed television coverage for three years.

C-SPAN, a non-profit cooperative 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.

- 30 -