

NEWS FROM:

C-SPAN AMERICA'S NETWORK

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

Release: IMMEDIATE
3/12/86

Contact: Susan Swain
(202) 737-3220

U.S. SENATE INAUGURATES AUDIO COVERAGE of DEBATES

C-SPAN TO OFFER UNCUT AUDIO COVERAGE BY SATELLITE TO CABLE COs.

WASHINGTON, D.C.--On Wednesday, March 12, the United States Senate inaugurated an eleven-week test offering of the audio portion of its floor debates. That same day, C-SPAN began offering this Senate audio feed via satellite to its cable system affiliates.

About one million cable households had access to C-SPAN's Senate audio service for this inaugural feed. C-SPAN officials say that over the course of the eleven-week test, they hope to sign on additional cable systems who are interested in offering gavel-to-gavel Senate debates to their customers.

Putting the Senate audio feed on satellite is a new venture for the C-SPAN network, which for the past seven years has been offering unedited television coverage of the U.S. House -- and a variety of other public affairs programming -- to cable audiences.

"We are certainly pleased to offer this Senate service to our affiliates," says C-SPAN CEO Brian Lamb. "People have been interested in following the Senate for a long time."

C-SPAN plans to carry the Senate audio live, with an 8:00 pm (eastern) repeat each day. When the Senate is not in session, the audio service will offer program updates, Senate information, and a selection of classical music.

The Senate will allow news organizations to have access to the audio portion of its debates until June 2, at which point a video feed will be added; C-SPAN plans to immediately add this Senate video to its offerings.

C-SPAN plans call for the gavel-to-gavel Senate television feed to be offered on a second channel -- free of charge -- to interested cable affiliates. The "original" C-SPAN channel, now seen in nearly 24 million homes, will continue to offer uncut coverage of the U.S. House, while adding selected Senate debates to its mix of program offerings.

The initial cable systems which signed on to carry C-SPAN's gavel-to-gavel Senate audio service to their customers in time for the historic first feed are:

<u>COMMUNITY</u>	<u>CABLE MSO</u>	<u>NUMBER HOUSEHOLDS</u>
Anaheim, CA	Storer Cable	40,000
Lakewood, CA	Tribune	12,000
Concord, CA	Western Communications	41,000
Mountain View, CA	Viacom	10,000
Santa Rosa, CA	Post-Newsweek	36,500
Burlingame, CA	Post-Newsweek	5,000
Oakdale, CA	Post-Newsweek	2,400
Union City, CA	Post Newsweek	6,500
Modesto, CA	Post-Newsweek	39,000
Globe, AZ	Post-Newsweek	4,500
Springfield, IL	Times-Mirror	40,000
Springfield, MA	Continental	40,000
Prince Georges, MD	Metrovision	27,000
St. Paul, MN	Continental	25,000
Milwaukee, WI	Viacom	40,000
Wheaton, IL	Centel	11,000

(more)

CABLE SATELLITE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK

<u>COMMUNITY</u>	<u>CABLE MSO</u>	<u>HOUSEHOLDS</u>
Albuquerque, NM	Tribune	56,000
Beaverton, OR	Storer Cable	35,000
Harrisburg, PA	Sammons	59,000
Brooklyn/Queens, NY	Warner Amex	5,000
Rochester, NY	ATC	123,000
Dallas, TX	Heritage	90,000
Ft. Worth, TX	Sammons	58,000
Arlington, VA	Hauser Communications	30,000
Fairfax Cnty, VA	Media General	105,000
Prince William, VA	Columbia International	5,000
Raleigh, NC	ATC	39,000
Durham, NC	ATC	27,000
Washington, DC	Capitol Connection	1,000

TOTAL SUBSCRIBERS FOR 3/12/86 inaugural feed

1,012,900

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Springfield, MA	Continental	40,000
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C-SPAN/ SENATE AUDIO

ADD ONE

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