

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Rayne Pollack (202) 626-4863

<u>C-SPAN NETWORKS PRODUCE NEARLY 7.000 HOURS</u> <u>OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING IN 1991.</u> Year of Major Events Drives 17% Increase in Programming From 1990

Washington, D.C. February 21, 1992--During a year of major domestic and international events, the C-SPAN networks produced 6,778 hours of firstrun public affairs programming. This represents a 17% increase in first-run programming hours from 1990.

Coverage ranged from events leading to the Persian Gulf War, to the end of the Cold War, to the confirmation of Judge Clarence Thomas as Supreme Court Justice. Programming included:

- almost 950 hours of live proceedings from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives;
- o over 1,200 hours of live proceedings from the floor of the U.S. Senate;
- o 1,150 hours of House and Senate committee hearings;
- o and nearly 850 hours of live Viewer Call-In programs.

The range and quantity of C-SPAN's public affairs offerings are reflected by the more than 80 hours of programming on the August coup in Moscow; almost 85 hours of hearings on the confirmation of Robert Gates to be director of the CIA; and nearly 2,600 hours combined of news briefings, international telecasts, White House events, "Journalists' Roundtables", and United Nations meetings.

Highlights for the year, marked by major current events, demonstrated how C-SPAN's unique Call-In programs provided a forum for viewers to communicate their opinions and questions to policy and news makers.

 From invasion to ceasefire in the Persian Gulf, of nearly 1,000 hours of first-run programs, 300 hours were Live Viewer Call-In programs. In the first week of the war alone, C-SPAN aired the comments of over 1,650 callers from 850 cities and towns across the U.S.

(MORE)

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C-SPAN 1991 YEAR END STATS -- 2

 Over the three-day weekend of the Clarence Thomas/Anita Hill Senate Judiciary Committee hearings C-SPAN provided 128 hours of coverage. During the phone segments, C-SPAN recorded an unprecedented number of first-time callers; of nearly 700 calls aired that weekend, 440 were from viewers who had never called any radio or television network before.

Programming statistics were compiled by Purdue University's Public Affairs Video Archives, which log and record all of C-SPAN's programming for educators' use.

C-SPAN is currently available in 55 million households nationwide and around the world via satellite. C-SPAN is privately funded to serve the public by America's cable television companies.

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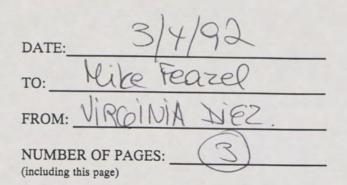
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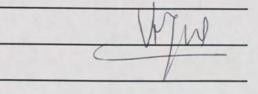
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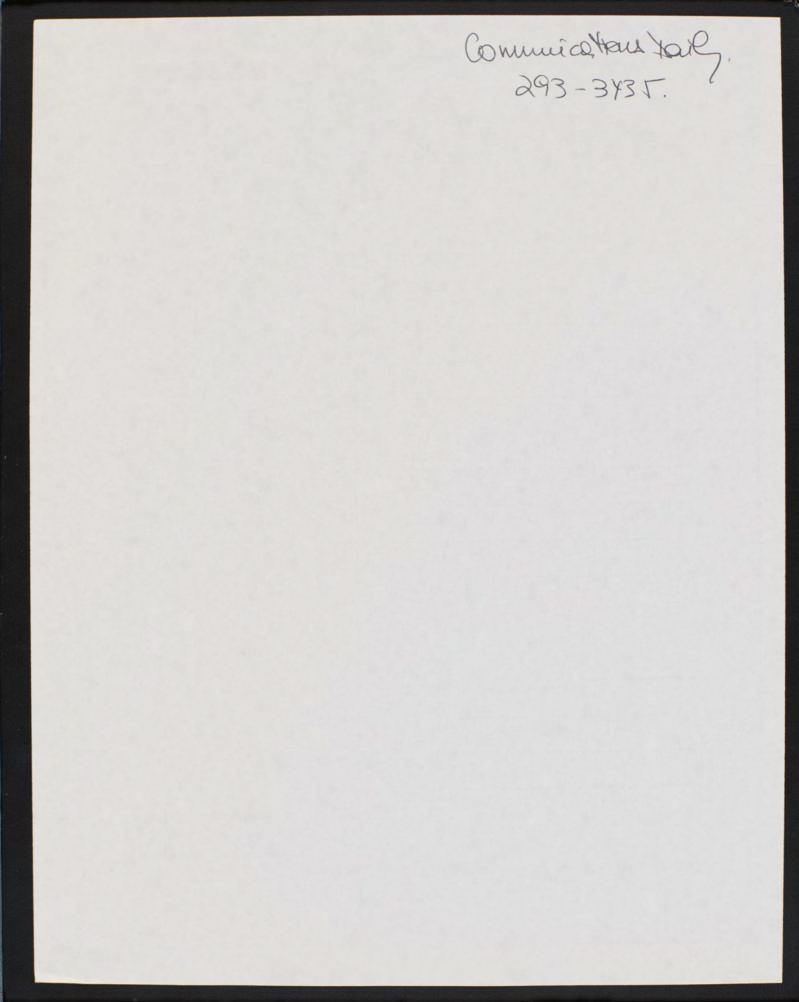
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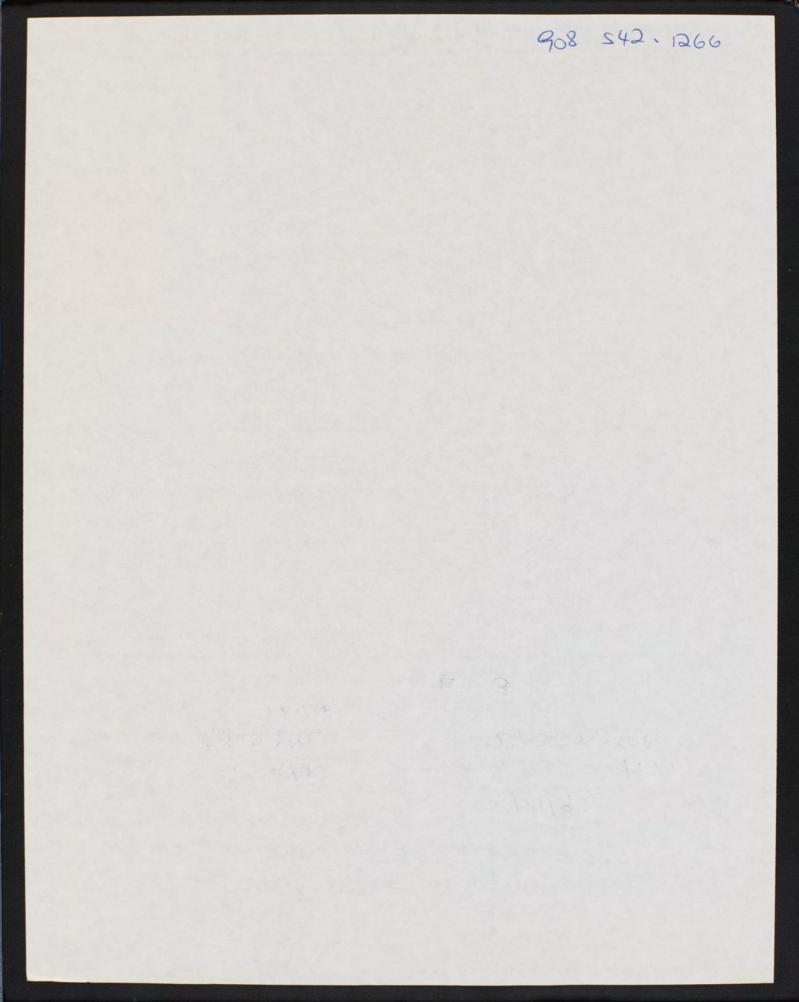
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