

News Release



Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network

400 North Capitol Street N.W., Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 737-3220

Release: October 19, 1990
Contact: Bruce D. Collins

C-SPAN STATEMENT ON THE IMPROPER POLITICAL USE OF ITS PROGRAM IN THE ALASKAN INITIATIVE CAMPAIGN

Washington, D.C. -- Today, C-SPAN reached an agreement settling a dispute with the parties responsible for the unauthorized political use of C-SPAN programming in the Alaskan campaign for an initiative on the recriminalization of marijuana. The agreement acknowledges that the unauthorized use was inadvertent, but that the parties are now aware that C-SPAN does not permit political use of its copyrighted material, and that such use will not re-occur.

C-SPAN's purpose in seeking the agreement was to halt future infringements, and to make clear to the public at large that the public affairs network does not permit its programs to be used for any political purposes, and that C-SPAN has no role of any kind in the Alaskan initiative campaign or in any other political activity.

During an October 11th press conference in Anchorage sponsored by an independent group, Alaskans for Recriminalization of Marijuana, a videotape of C-SPAN programming was shown to the press. The purpose of the screening was to support a recriminalization of marijuana initiative that will be on the ballot in Alaska in November.

Upon hearing of the screening from members of the press who attended the press conference, C-SPAN began an investigation into the incident. C-SPAN concluded that a videotape of its coverage of the August 1990 National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) convention held in Washington, DC was properly purchased by the recriminalization group from C-SPAN earlier this month, but was then publicly performed by the group in violation of the terms of the purchase and of C-SPAN's copyright.

During the investigation all parties were extremely cooperative and forthcoming. Upon learning of C-SPAN's objections, they agreed to cease further improper uses of the videotape, to return unauthorized copies to C-SPAN, and to agree to the public announcement of the agreement.

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C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol St., N.W.
Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Peter Johnson - USA Today

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release

DATE: 10.19.90

NUMBER OF PAGES: 4
(Including Cover)

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NOTE:

Capital Hill

→ Burger King - speech
- panel
All
to Colleen on Education
mediation - Clearwood
- TAPC, CBS, HBC
Boatman
Monday morning

703.516.
9236

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Tim Hass - KTUU-TV

FROM: Kristin Wennberg - 202.626.7975

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: David Futch - Anchorage Times

FROM: Kristin Wennberg - 202.626.7975

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Jeff Berliner - UPI

FROM: Kristin Wennberg - 202-626-7975

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UPI

Jeff Berliner
Fax: 907.274.5059

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Mike Cornely - KTVA-TV

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TO: Roxanne Rohweder - Kimo-TV

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Brian Akre - Associated Press

FROM: Kristin Wennberg - 202.626.7975

RE: Urgent News Release

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Brian Akre

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Johanna Eurich - KSKA-FM

FROM: Kristin Wennberg - 202.626.7975

RE: Urgent News Release

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NOTE:

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C-SPAN STATEMENT ON UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE NETWORK'S COVERAGE FOR
PARTISAN PURPOSES

Washington, D.C. -- Alaskans for the Recriminalization of Marijuana and others responsible for the procurement and unauthorized editing of C-SPAN footage in a partisan video have agreed to disassociate their political efforts from the cable public affairs network and will return any copies of the video to C-SPAN.

The Alaskans for Recriminalization of Marijuana video was shown Thursday, October 11, at a press conference held by the organization in Anchorage. The video contained portions of C-SPAN's coverage of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) convention that took place this September in Washington, D.C.

Although the footage was bought from C-SPAN, copyright laws and contract agreements do not allow the footage to be used for partisan political purposes or to be shown in public.

After investigating the incident, C-SPAN has concluded that the violation of copyright and contract laws was inadvertent. The parties involved have been forthcoming and cooperative in their efforts to have the matter resolved, and C-SPAN is confident that all parties now understand that C-SPAN coverage may not be used for partisan purposes.

C-SPAN hopes to make clear to Alaska voters and the public at large that the network does not endorse any political party of platform and that the use of C-SPAN footage by Alaskans for the Recriminalization of Marijuana does not in any way suggest that fact.

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