

C-SPAN II

Q: WHEN THE PUBLIC TEST PERIOD FOR SENATE TELEVISION BEGINS ON JUNE 2, HOW WILL C-SPAN COVER IT?

A. On June 2, live Senate TV will be available to the 25 million cable homes that receive C-SPAN programming. After June 2, only those cable homes whose systems also carry C-SPAN II will have access to live, gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Senate.

Q: WHAT IS C-SPAN II?

A. C-SPAN II is the second channel created by the cable television industry that will offer uncut coverage of Senate proceedings.

Q: HOW IS C-SPAN II DISTRIBUTED?

A. Both C-SPAN and C-SPAN II are distributed nationally to cable systems via satellite. C-SPAN II is being offered free of charge to all cable systems who are currently affiliated with C-SPAN and carry C-SPAN's round-the-clock public affairs programming to their subscribers. No cable system may carry C-SPAN II with its live Senate coverage unless they presently carry C-SPAN.

Q: HOW MANY HOMES WILL RECEIVE C-SPAN II'S COVERAGE OF THE SENATE?

A. On June 2, approximately 160 cable systems serving 7 million homes will carry C-SPAN II. Over the course of the six-week test period, that number will continue to grow as more systems become affiliated with C-SPAN II.

Q: WILL CABLE SUBSCRIBERS WHOSE SYSTEMS DO NOT CARRY C-SPAN II BE ABLE TO WATCH THE SENATE AFTER JUNE 2?

If the cable system carries C-SPAN programming, but has not signed on to carry C-SPAN II, their subscribers will be able to see occasional Senate debates, most often on a tape-delayed basis.

Q: WHAT KIND OF PROGRAMMING WILL BE OFFERED ON C-SPAN II?

A. During the six-week television test by the Senate, C-SPAN II will only offer live, gavel-to-gavel coverage of Senate floor debates. When the Senate is not in session, C-SPAN will offer an occasional live program. All other times, C-SPAN II will carry billboarded information about the programming on the original C-SPAN channel with a background of classical music.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS DURING SENATE QUORUM CALLS ON C-SPAN II?

A. C-SPAN II's gavel-to-gavel live coverage of the Senate will include all quorum calls, during which a billboard appears saying "the Senate is now conducting a quorum call" Classical music will accompany the message.

Q: DOES C-SPAN OPERATE THE CAMERAS IN THE SENATE?

A. No. Just as in the House, the Senate is being covered by six remote-control cameras operated by Congressional employees. Any accredited news organization may directly "plug into" the Congressional feed. C-SPAN elects to pick up the feeds in their entirety.

(OVER)

Q: WHEN DID HOUSE TELEVISION BEGIN?

A. C-SPAN went on the air in March 19, 1979 to televise the U.S. Congress. Three million U.S. cable homes were wired to receive the initial C-SPAN telecast then. C-SPAN began, much as C-SPAN II, only offering the live Congressional floor debates and expanded its programming over the ensuing seven and a half years.

Q: HOW IS C-SPAN FUNDED?

A. C-SPAN is a non-profit cooperative effort of the cable television industry. Approximately 85% of C-SPAN's funding comes from affiliates fees. C-SPAN's board of directors is comprised of 37 cable television executives.

For more information, contact the C-SPAN public relations department at:

(202) 737-3220

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