

NEWS FROM:

C-SPAN AMERICA'S NETWORK

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

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"STATES OF THE NATION" FEBRUARY KICKOFF--

66 Hours of First-Run Programming

In February, C-SPAN announced a new programming theme called "States of the Nation '85." Program officials at the public affairs cable network calculate that by month's end, they had devoted more than 66 hours of first-run programming to the "States of the Nation" concept.

"States of the Nation" symbolizes C-SPAN's year-long commitment to examining public policy issues that concern state and local governments. With extensive coverage of state-related events and through call-in programs, interviews, and roundtable discussions with state officials and their policy advisors, C-SPAN is broadening its traditional "Window on Washington" approach to public affairs programming.

Program director Carrie Collins says that 28 state and local officials participated in live C-SPAN call-in programs in February alone; Another 19 took part in roundtable discussions produced by the public affairs channel. Ms. Collins also explained that much of February's "States of the Nation" programming centered around live coverage of two major Washington meetings: the National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Governors' Association.

In all, February's 66:15 hours of "States of the Nation" programming includes:

- live viewer call-ins with state capital news reporters 18 hours
- live viewer call-ins with (28) state and local officials 18:30 hours
- live & taped "States of the Nation" events (roundtables, press conferences, interviews, NGA & NCSL meetings, etc.) 29:45 hours

"States of the Nation" programming will continue on C-SPAN throughout the year, with events such as March's National Association of Counties meeting.

Later in the year, C-SPAN will take "States of the Nation '85" on the road with on-site programming from several state capital cities.

CABLE SATELLITE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK

NEWS FROM:

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--C-SPAN PLANS LIVE ALASKAN TELECAST--
Mayors' Meeting is Focus

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- C-SPAN's "States of the Nation '85" heads to Alaska next month when the Washington-based public affairs network makes the 5500 mile trip to provide LIVE coverage of the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The meeting, scheduled for June 15-19 in Anchorage, will be attended by nearly 200 mayors. C-SPAN's telecast will allow 21 million cable households to have access to the mayors' five-day event.

The five-day Alaskan telecast is being made possible through a major cooperative effort with several of Alaska's cable communications companies. Alascom, Inc. has agreed to provide the satellite uplink, microwave transmission facilities and other technical assistance; Multivision Cable of Anchorage will supply underwriting, technical and personnel support. Two other cable concerns, Alaska Cablevision and McCaw Communications, will help underwrite the project.

In addition, Anchorage's Captain Cook Hotel has made space available for a temporary C-SPAN studio. A live camera situated on the roof of the hotel will be used for cutaways during the viewer call-in programs.

C-SPAN Program Director Carrie Collins says that preliminary plans for the trip call for uncut live and taped coverage of several conference sessions, interviews and viewer call-in programs with mayors, political journalists, and Alaskan officials, and video footage that captures some of Alaska's scenic beauty.

The 17-person crew will also videotape some of the extracurricular activities surrounding the mayors' meeting, such as press conferences, a 10-kilometer race in which several mayors will compete, and footage of several of the mayors' social gatherings.

C-SPAN's Barry Katz, who will produce the event, says viewers will have a real sense of "being there." "Our programming goals are two-fold," says Mr. Katz. "We want to provide in-depth coverage of the mayors' working sessions and the issues that face them, and at the same time explore some of Alaska's special concerns."

The Anchorage telecast is the first of several road trips which the non-profit cable cooperative plans to make this year as part of its "States of the Nation '85" programming theme. C-SPAN's "States of the Nation" programming addresses the issues and concerns of state and local governments -- an extension of the network's more federally-oriented programming. Already in 1985, C-SPAN has televised the D.C. meetings of the nation's governors, mayors and state legislators.

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