

NEWS FROM:

C-SPAN AMERICA'S NETWORK

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C-SPAN COVERAGE PROVIDES IN-DEPTH ANALYSES OF SUPREME COURT STORY

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- When a news event breaks that affects top officials, public policy, or the government, C-SPAN's unique format can provide cable viewers with comprehensive analyses of the event. The June 17th resignation of Chief Justice Warren Burger is evidence of this: During 3½ hours of special programming C-SPAN viewers heard the reactions of eight key judicial experts, saw an exclusive C-SPAN interview with the President's new Supreme Court nominee, Judge Antonin Scalia, and --as always-- had an opportunity to comment on the event during special viewer call-in programs.

On June 17th, shortly after the 2:00 pm White House announcement of the Chief Justice's retirement, C-SPAN II viewers, who were watching live coverage of the Senate, heard Judiciary Chairman Strom Thurmond (R-SC) tell his Senate Colleagues of the announcement and report on the Supreme Court conversation he had with President Reagan minutes before the Reagan/Burger press conference. Following a live congressional telecast, C-SPAN viewers learned more about the changes in the Supreme Court through:

- uncut coverage of Chief Justice Warren Burger's press conference from the Supreme Court.
- a rare and exclusive interview with Supreme Court nominee Antonin Scalia, recorded in April as part of C-SPAN's "America & the Courts" series.
- a live viewer call-in program with Senate Majority Whip Alan Simpson (R-WY), a member of the Judiciary committee which will conduct Justice Rehnquist and Judge Scalia's confirmation hearings.
- a live viewer call-in program with American Enterprise Institute constitutional scholar Bruce Fein and John Buchanan, chairman of People for the American Way, whose project tracks federal court nominations. During the hour-long program, C-SPAN talked by phone with Judge Abner Mikva, a Court of Appeals colleague of Judge Scalia, and Jesse Choper, dean of the UC/Berkeley Law School.
- a live viewer call-in with Elder Witt, who has covered the Supreme Court since 1968 for Congressional Quarterly.

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