

C-SPAN

Tenth Anniversary

1979-1989

Contact: Gene Grabowski
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

C-SPAN TO TELECAST BRITISH PARLIAMENT BEGINNING IN MID-NOVEMBER

Network to Bring Colorful House of Commons to U.S. Audience

WASHINGTON, September 21 -- C-SPAN, the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network, will air portions of the first televised British House of Commons' proceedings starting in mid-November.

The historic House of Commons telecasts are expected to be part of C-SPAN programming from London that begins Nov. 14 and will continue for up to a week, network Chairman Brian Lamb said.

Parliament has yet to select a specific date for its opening session, which traditionally begins with an address by the British monarch on the second or third Tuesday in November. C-SPAN covered last year's opening speech by Queen Elizabeth II with a special live international telecast.

Mr. Lamb said tentative plans call for airing, when possible, of the Commons' 15-minute "Question Time" from 3:15 to 3:30 p.m. ET on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is at those times that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher handles inquiries from other members of Parliament.

C-SPAN will also air Commons debates of interest to the U.S. audience in their entirety whenever possible. Such debates might include discussions of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance, international trade agreements, or internal British policies that parallel U.S. domestic issues before Congress, Mr. Lamb said.

Regardless of when Parliament opens its session this year, C-SPAN's live London programming will include interviews with British politicians, journalists and members of Mrs. Thatcher's Cabinet. C-SPAN will also present live and taped features on British history and government during its stay in Britain.

C-SPAN, a non-profit public service of the cable television industry, started coverage of the U.S. House in 1979. C-SPAN II began Senate coverage in 1986.

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