

News Release

# C-SPAN

## *Tenth Anniversary*

1979-1989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contacts:  
Gene Grabowski  
Kristin Wennberg  
202-737-3220

BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS TO AIR EACH SUNDAY NIGHT ON C-SPAN

Question Time with Margaret Thatcher Featured Weekly

Washington, D.C., February 27 -- Starting Sunday, March 4, British House of Commons proceedings will air at 9 pm ET every Sunday night on C-SPAN, network Programming Director Terry Murphy has announced.

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- 30 -





7 March 1990

Mr. Ralph Novak  
Picks and Pans Editor  
People Magazine  
Time-Life Building  
New York, NY 10022

Mr. Novak:

The following information regards C-SPAN's new regular air time for the British House of Commons' "Question Time" with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. This boisterous session of Parliament, which David Hiltbrand called "an absolute riot" (Picks and Pans, January 15), will now air **every Sunday night at 9pm ET.**

C-SPAN first began airing the House of Commons in November. Our occasional coverage has quickly become one of our most popular programs (I've enclosed some letters from our viewers as evidence).

I hope our new House of Commons air time is worth a mention in this week's Picks and Pans column. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 202-626-7975.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Kristin Wennberg". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Kristin Wennberg  
Press Coordinator

Trade Publication Contacts and Numbers

Publication	Editor	Phone	Fax	D.C. Reporter	D.C. Fax	Calendar Editor
Associated Press	Jay Arnold	828-6400	828-6422	Tim Bovee/Metro	835-1584	Tim Bovee
Broadcasting	Kira Greene	659-2340	429-0651	Matt Stump	429-0651	Kira Greene
Cable Marketing	Les Luchter	212-685-4848	212-696-5318	None	None	Ellis Simon
Cable TV Business	Chuck Moozakis	303-220-0600	303-773-9716	Krista Van Leven	659-0309	Tamara Bennett
Cable World	Stewart Schley	303-837-0900	303-837-0915	V. Padeloup	527-6743	Barnett Parker
Cablecaster	Linda Ashley	416-363-6111	416-367-4036	None	None	Bruce Parkinson
CableVision	Steve Tuttle	212-576-3469	212-213-3628	Vacant	524-8977	Simon Applebaum
Channels	Merrill Brown	212-545-5100	212-696-4215	None	None	Richard Katz
Comm Daily	Mike Feazel	872-9200	293-3435	Mary Crowley		
Electronic Media	Craig Leddy	312-649-5293	312-649-5465	Laura Malt	638-3155	Kymi Armour
Hollywood Reporter			737-3833	Paulette Dininny	737-2828	
MSO	Deborah Arney	303-355-2101	303-355-2144	None	None	
Multichannel News	Eric Schatz	212-741-6700	212-337-3241	Jeannine Aversa	202-371-9618	Mercelle Seale
TBI International	Jay Stuart	212-545-5100	212-696-4215	None	None	None
TV Guide	Pat Jordan	215-293-8681	215-293-4849	Lisa Stein	None	None

466-3469

Wash Post

John Carmody/Brenda Caggiano

334-5587



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

TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Neal Koch - New York Times

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release

DATE: 3.27.90

NUMBER OF PAGES: 3  
(Including Cover)

If you do not receive all pages, please call Kristin Wennberg at 202-626-7975.

NOTE:

Neal: The following are 2 press release on the British House of Commons. Please call me if you have any other questions.

Thank you -

Kristin Wennberg



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

TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Eric Schatz - Multichannel News

FROM: Gene Grabowski / Kristin Wennberg

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212.696.4215

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TO: Simon Applebaum. CableVision

FROM: Gene Grabowski / Kristin Wennberg

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TO: Les Lichter - Cable Marketing

FROM: Gene Grabowski / Kristin Wennberg

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TO: Chuck Moozakis - Cable TV Business

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NOTE:

*Kristin,*

*FYI*

*Gene*

TO: Press, P&P, VIS, Marketing

FR: Susan *S. Sw*

RE: Promoting our new Sunday night programming line up.

We have just made the commitment to a REGULAR, WEEKLY time slot for the British House of Commons. Considering the great amount of viewer interest in the HOC, it seems a natural for special promotional attention.

Programming has agreed to hold off the debut of the House of Commons time slot until next week to allow us to promote it.

So, beginning Sunday, March 4 :

you can see Question Time from the British House of Commons each Sunday at 9:00 pm ET and again at midnight ET.

(please note that 9:00 pm is the time slot currently held by Capital Agenda. Capital Agenda is being moved ahead one half hour to 9:30 pm ET)

\*\*\*\*\*

Another item that may be of interest for targeted promotion to the Mountain and Pacific time Zones:

We have just committed to resiring our block of Sunday night programming at a specific time each week. This is being done so that our audiences in the western states can have the same kind of regular, prime time access to our Sunday night line up as our eastern audiences have.

Starting Sunday, March 4,

8 pm ET Booknotes resirs at 11 pm ET -- 8 pm PT

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Ralph Novak - Pics and Paris editor

FROM: Gene Grabowski / Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release

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(Including Cover)

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**C-SPAN**  
UPDATE

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 49  
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### What's C-SPAN?

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The network's on-air debut in 1979 coincided with the inauguration of live telecasts from the floor of the House of Representatives. At that time, C-SPAN's programming consisted solely of live gavel-to-gavel telecasts of House proceedings, and its potential audience comprised 3.5 million households. Today, C-SPAN's 24-hour-a-day programming is available in more than 45 million cable-television households via 3,341 affiliated cable systems.

The core of C-SPAN's programming is still the live, gavel-to-gavel, uncut telecasts of the House whenever it is in session; yet, these live proceedings account for only one-tenth of the network's schedule. The balance of the programming consists of live and taped telecasts of congressional hearings; all National Press Club newsmaker luncheons; the Close Up Foundation's Washington-studies programs with students, teachers, and senior citizens; State Department and Pentagon briefings; and conferences of public-policy organizations meeting in Washington, D.C., and around the country.

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## THE MAIL

*'We are not a colony of Britain and we should not pander to royalty.'*

# Reaction to British Coverage Pours In

I am writing this letter in vehement protest of C-SPAN's emphasizing, for a period of a month, the British House of Commons, British commentators, the queen's photographers, and the prince's polo matches.

Advance advertisement for over a month is a waste of C-SPAN's valuable time. We are not a colony of Britain and we should not pander to royalty.

I also notice your emphasis on media personnel, reporters, and National Press Club events. I don't think they need another forum to get their bylines and press publicity.

Richard Kohn  
Coconut Creek, Fla.



C-SPAN crew members Marianne Woody and Garney Gary set up a camera outside of Buckingham Palace in London. The network spent two weeks in London reporting on British politics and the European political scene. The trip culminated in coverage of the House of Commons first-ever television experiment Nov. 21.

**Criticizing Commons Coverage**  
During the last few weeks I've had the opportunity to watch C-SPAN's television coverage of the British House of Commons.

While I congratulate you on your attempt to telecast the proceedings, I also have to confess that I've been critical of the way you've sought to televise Parliament.

I believe your interviewers have neglected to ask certain questions and to interview certain people which would assist your viewing audience to understand and appreciate the personalities and arcane procedures that are so much a part of the House of Commons.

I think it would provide better coverage of such rituals as "Question Time" in the House if you were to put these items in the context of the order of parliamentary business, and to explain the way the ministers prepare the answers to such questions that are likely to arise.

Mark Lioen  
Rock Island, Ill.

**"I think other forms of democracy are very interesting. Every free society has a deeply independent and special way of doing things."**

—Andre Butler

### A Young, 'Uncommon' Fan

My name is Andre Butler. I am 13 years old and very interested in the Canadian House of Commons and the British House of Commons.

My question is, when will these Houses, especially the Canadian House of Commons, be aired on C-SPAN or C-SPAN II? I think other forms of democracy are very interesting. Every free society has a deeply independent and special way of doing things.

Andre Butler  
Charlotte, N.C.

*Editor's note: C-SPAN generally will air activity from the legislatures in Canada and Great Britain when the U.S.*

*Congress is not in session. Watch network programming updates or call our programming hotline at (202) 628-2205 for details on our daily schedule.*

### Some Logistical Questions

I thoroughly enjoy watching most of what C-SPAN has to offer, especially the congressional hearings on the savings and loan situation.

As much as I watch, I have never been able to get the phone number for call-in questions. Would you please send me the phone number?

I would also like to know if you have video tapes of the savings and loan hearings. If they are available to the public, how would I go about ordering one and what is the cost?

Theodore Baehr  
Augusta, Ga.

*Editor's note: To reach a C-SPAN call-in program viewers in the Eastern and Central time zones should call (202) 628-2525. Viewers in the Mountain and Pacific time zones call (202) 628-2727. For information on purchasing videotape copies of C-SPAN programs, please call our dubbing department at (202) 737-3220.*

### Getting Schedule Information

Our area was recently wired for cable television, and I soon discovered your fine offerings. I enjoy particularly the House of Commons programs, and the American public affairs programs.

I receive two daily newspapers and while they give programming details of other channels, they seem to ignore your excellent service.

Mrs. Joseph Kennealy  
Eagan, Minn.

*Editor's note: C-SPAN makes its schedule available to newspapers and other publications on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. Viewers interested in see-*

*ing these listings should contact the editors at their local paper.*

### Another Musical Note

The music that you use during breaks in coverage is well chosen and fitting for the type of programming.

I hope you will never be pressured into using the kind of junk music that accompanies just about every other kind of TV and radio broadcast.

Pete Bartlett  
El Paso, Texas

### Commons and Education

Congratulations on an outstanding job with the British House of Commons.

It occurs to me that further use of that material would be useful to the education of all Americans starting with first grade.

What is your policy regarding the use of that material on cassettes or video discs?

It seems to me that C-SPAN, along with live telecasts, could be used in all sorts of teaching situations in history, public policy, social studies, etc. I know schools here which are running this material all week long and it is well received.

Ed Flynn  
Claremont, Calif.

*Editor's note: C-SPAN encourages the use of its programming in many classroom settings. For information about our "C-SPAN in the Classroom" program and the use of C-SPAN videotapes in the classroom, contact the network's educational services department at (202) 737-*

*Send your questions or remarks about C-SPAN to Viewer Mail, C-SPAN Update, 400 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 650, Washington, D.C. 20001.*



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Jenny Chan

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## THE MAIL

*'This will knock 'Donahue,' 'Oprah,' and the rest right out of morning television.'*

# Viewers React to Commons Coverage

**Y**ou are making history. It's 9:55 am ET and I've only watched 15 minutes of the House of Commons. It's great television!

This will knock "Donahue," "Oprah," and the rest right out of morning television. I hope the members of Parliament are enjoying what they are doing, as I am.

The Speaker of the House of Commons, Bernard Weatherill, adds a very special spice. Great TV so far!

John Cook

Mount Dora, Fla.

I was very disillusioned last Tuesday evening to find that you considered it more important to televise what is going on in England than to televise the House Banking Committee hearings on the savings and loan crisis.

The S&L hearings are, in my opinion, the best thing that you have televised (when you show it) in the several years that I have had cable, and I am sure that there are many others who share my opinion. Let the Brits televise their own material—this is still America and what goes on here affects the American public.

Hoping this note will change your thinking because this is the best and most interesting program going.

Matthew Downing  
College Park, Md.

**"Let the Brits televise their own material—this is still America and what goes on here affects the American public."**

—Matthew Downing

### On Panning the Chamber

I realize the House of Representatives, not C-SPAN, controls the cameras in the chamber.

I do want to state that I'm in favor of Rep. Robert Dornan's (R-Calif.) request to change the House rules, which permit panning the chamber during special order speeches.

If Congress doesn't consider Mr. Dornan's request, I would like to see a little uniformity. Let the cameras pan the chamber when Congress is in session. Maybe, then, it won't take so long to get "order in the House" and members won't have to "retire to the coatroom" because they can't be quiet!

Amy Lutteringer  
Fort Wayne, Ind.



The House TV control room



Inset, Commons Speaker Bernard Weatherill. C-SPAN telecast the first televised session from the British House of Commons Nov. 21.

### Viewer Attacks Special Orders

Something has got to give! We have hurricanes, earthquakes, elections, mass exodus, savings and loans, HUD, etc. And C-SPAN addicts waiting to hear reaction to these events from all over the country.

How, in the name of all that's holy, do these politicians assume we'll dutifully sit and listen to their favorite topic during special order speeches? For 60 minutes yet! If it were not so frustrating, it would be laughable. How can anyone have an ego so big?

I strongly suspect there are enough of us to form a majority "ban special orders club."

Elizabeth Boorman  
Junction, Texas

### C-SPAN's Abortion Coverage

I noticed your promotion for C-SPAN coverage of a "Woman's Rights Rally" on page 3 of the Nov. 6 Update.

The item listed the rally's sponsors and speakers (including the inventor of the French abortion pill) and featured the logo of the event. Can you tell me, when was the last time the C-SPAN Update promoted coverage of a pro-life event in the same advertisement (non-article) format.

We know that media coverage of the abortion debate has been grossly one-sided. Objective, even-handed coverage on abortion issues by your network would be a welcome change for all of us.

Joseph Robledo  
Walnut Creek, Calif.

### Remembering the BBC

In our vast barren sea of commercial broadcasting, C-SPAN stands out as a green island. If it didn't exist, it would have to be invented.

I remember another green island rising out of the murky sea of wartime propaganda and misinformation: BBC radio. I was reminded of this by your excellent interview with Mr.

I was delighted to get a glimpse of the workings of this great news organization. Incidentally, as an American by choice, I am also grateful to BBC for their erstwhile language program called "English by Radio," which I pursued diligently and which later made starting life in my new country infinitely easier.

Thanks C-SPAN, and belatedly, thanks BBC.

Charles Weller  
Austin, Texas

### Commons Scheduling

Your programs are very much appreciated. I watch every morning. I wish I knew in advance what you are scheduling.

Do you have any programs set up in the future to watch the British House of Commons in action so that I know what is going to be shown?

Lenore Brown  
Kalamazoo, Mich.

*Editor's note: C-SPAN will air some sessions of the House of Commons when the U.S. Congress is not in session. Watch network updates or call (202) 628-2205 to get specific programming information.*

### A West German Writes

Just by chance did I come across your telecasts on local West German cable TV. On Friday, Nov. 10, I watched a current affairs show with journalists from the United States, Great Britain, and West Germany on—among other topics—the opening of the Berlin Wall.

From what I have been able to watch of your programs, I find your schedule quite interesting.

Matthias Hettwer  
Göttingen, West Germany

Send your questions or remarks about C-SPAN to Viewer Mail, C-SPAN Update, 400 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 650, Washington, D.C. 20001.



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Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
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### What's C-SPAN?

C-SPAN (the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network) is a nonprofit cooperative of the cable-television industry. It was created in 1977 to provide public-affairs programming from the nation's capital to a national cable-television audience.

The network's on-air debut in 1979 coincided with the inauguration of live telecasts from the floor of the House of Representatives. At that time, C-SPAN's programming consisted solely of live gavel-to-gavel telecasts of House proceedings, and its potential audience comprised 3.5 million households. Today, C-SPAN's 24-hour-a-day programming is available in more than 45 million cable-television households via 3,341 affiliated cable systems.

The core of C-SPAN's programming is still the live, gavel-to-gavel, uncut telecasts of the House whenever it is in session; yet, these live proceedings account for only one-tenth of the network's schedule. The balance of the programming consists of live and taped telecasts of congressional hearings; all National Press Club newsmaker luncheons; the Close Up Foundation's Washington-studies programs with students, teachers, and senior citizens; State Department and Pentagon briefings; and conferences of public-policy organizations meeting in Washington, D.C., and around the country.

C-SPAN places special emphasis on its daily viewer call-in programs, which in 1988 aired the calls of more than 14,000 viewers. Each weekday morning and evening, C-SPAN viewers can talk directly to congressmen, senators, cabinet members, and other public-policy experts. One call-in program each weekday—beginning approximately at 8:45 am Eastern time—is devoted to journalists, who discuss with viewers the gathering and reporting of national news.

Special programming on C-SPAN in 1989 includes "America and the Courts," a weekly program that follows the federal judicial system. Last summer, C-SPAN offered television's only complete, unedited, uninterrupted coverage of the Democratic and Republican conventions.

### What's C-SPAN II?

C-SPAN II is C-SPAN's second network. It was created in June 1986 to carry live, gavel-to-gavel, uncut telecasts of the U.S. Senate. In January 1987 C-SPAN II began offering a full seven-day-a-week schedule of public-affairs programming in addition to its coverage of the Senate. It is available for carriage by cable systems that already offer C-SPAN to their subscribers. At present 646 affiliated cable systems offer C-SPAN II to nearly 18 million households.

## THE MAIL

'Please tell him that I made a beeline for the phone to order his book.'

# Viewers Are 'Cuckoo' About Clifford Stoll

**W**HAT AN absolutely enthralling interview I've just watched—Clifford Stoll is a real, genuine original! It surely must have been the easiest interview you ever did.

If you should be in touch with Mr. Stoll, please tell him that I made a beeline for the phone to order his book and to the typewriter to thank you.

Betty Brinkerhoff  
Douglaston, N.Y.

Regarding, Clifford Stoll, author of "Cuckoo's Egg."  
Hire him.

Diane Sims  
Dallas, Texas

I just finished watching an interview with Clifford Stoll. How interesting! Keep up the good work.

I loved how you just let him speak. People claim your station is boring, but it's not on Sunday nights.

Maureen Abel  
West Allenhurst, N.J.

I am sitting listening to your interview with Clifford Stoll talking about "Cuckoo's Egg."

When I tuned in, I couldn't believe why you were talking to this weirdo—I stayed and became drawn in myself and slowly came to understand why you did the interview. Now I am more impressed with C-SPAN than ever.

Julianna Guy  
Anchorage, Alaska

Thank you for "Booknotes" tonight. Beyond that, I'm quite speechless.

I shall forever remember the author of "Cuckoo's Egg." And the interviewer—there were moments when I felt he was somewhat of a puzzle to you.

It was a bewildering experience to see and hear this remarkable fellow—but as I said before—I'm speechless.

Freda Jones Himmelman  
Annapolis, Md.

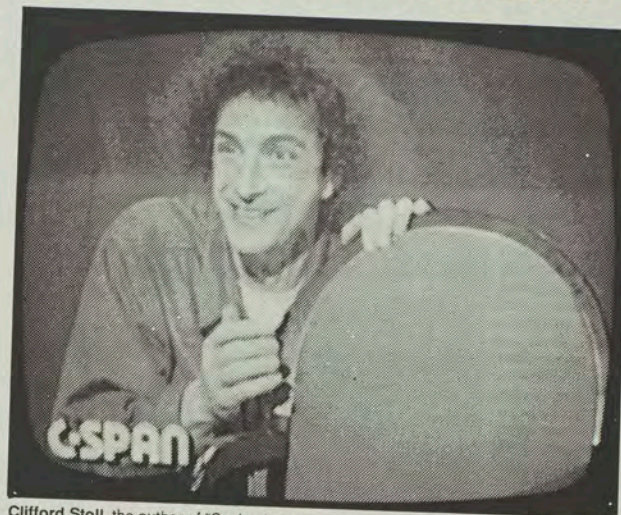
The author of the "Cuckoo's Egg" was really strange, really strange. Think maybe we could clone him and have some more strange characters like him around?

All the normal folks, all kinds of damn problems. What? No honorarium for his speeches? Get that strange dude out of Washington and back to star gazing before he gets tainted.

I also can now tell when your interviewers are really amused. I loved the way you asked him if he thought he was strange. How would you reply if he asked you that question?

John O' Connor  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

This guy is a joyous 12-year-old with an adult genius brain. With all



Clifford Stoll, the author of "Cuckoo's Egg," appeared on a C-SPAN "Booknotes" program Dec. 3.

the fun, you missed it! One may think he is strange, but that is not true. He is just a special person filled with the joy of learning. It would be a stupid person who would mistake his joy for strangeness. I am sure you enjoyed the interview.

Adolph Thormahler  
Stillman Valley, Ill.

Congratulations! You had another winner. Your astronomer friend was incredible. Thank you so much for having him on. It was most refreshing to see one so smart, yet humble, giving credit to others.

We sat spellbound. That dear soul, in his guileless way, could have influenced education, as well as the pay scale for astronomers.

More importantly, he should have and probably did, convey the virtues and values of being a worthwhile person.

Claire Scalise Bouton  
Birmingham, Ala.

### Well-Tailored Guests?

C-SPAN has, seemingly through over control, begun to develop a murky sophistication, and is losing the ingenious quality that so endeared it to an intelligent audience.

You are becoming one of "them," one of the orchestrators whose license to manipulate others can only come from blinding arrogance.

The Al Neuharth [call-in] appearance elicited so many more knowledgeable callers than did [former ambassador] Max Kampelman that one can conclude Kampelman's calls were tailored to fit his agenda and insulate him from knowledgeable callers.

That several callers referred to Kampelman as a great American illustrates the innocence of some Americans. If you are in any way tailoring calls to fit certain guests, then at

least schedule guests with counter positions for balance.

If you are not willing to present all sides, then you are guilty of fostering ignorance and playing to fools. What's the future in that?

Mike Paproski  
Omaha, Neb.

"I truly think my fellow viewers of C-SPAN will come to enjoy watching and listening to the Commons more than Congress."

### A View of 'Raw' Democracy

I have been to London twice. On both occasions, much of my time was spent waiting in the queue to gain admittance to the Stranger's Gallery in the House of Commons.

It has been my favorite part of my visit to witness democracy, although loud and raw, at its best. The Commons is entertaining. It is a refreshing alternative to the made-up and packaged proceedings in the United States Congress.

I truly think my fellow viewers of C-SPAN will come to enjoy watching and listening to the Commons more than Congress.

I hope so anyway—perhaps then our leaders may be more inclined to the real and effective debate a democracy must have. Thanks for the commitment to British politics. Hear! Hear!

Michael Fox  
Roanoke, Va.

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