

NEWS FROM:

C-SPAN AMERICA'S NETWORK

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

Release: IMMEDIATE
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U.S. REP. JIM WRIGHT APPLAUDS CABLE INDUSTRY FOR CREATING C-SPAN

DALLAS, TEXAS -- House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-TX) opened the 1986 convention of the National Cable Television Association by congratulating the cable industry for its creation and support of C-SPAN.

Calling C-SPAN, "America's town hall," Rep. Wright told the convention attendees, "I want to thank you for [it] as a member of Congress and as a citizen of the United States."

Majority Leader Wright continued, "Not only have you provided an opportunity for people to see that which they own and which is theirs, but indeed you have given them the privilege of being better citizens." Mr. Wright pointed out a recent study which indicated that 93 percent of C-SPAN viewers voted in the last election, which he said was nearly twice the national average. Congressman Wright made his remarks to the more than 10,000 attendees at the cable industry's annual gathering here in Dallas.

In his address, Mr. Wright also cited C-SPAN's unedited coverage of news events by telling the cable industry, "You are allowing people...to see unvarnished, uncut, unedited exactly what their elected spokesmen...are saying -- when they are saying it -- without some slick, blow-dried hairdo with a disdainful smirk telling them what he presumes they were too stupid to understand about what they just saw." He added, "I appreciate it, America ought to appreciate it."

C-SPAN was created by the cable industry in 1979 and now provides round-the-clock public affairs programming that includes live coverage of the U.S. House of Representatives. Nearly 24 million U.S. homes can now watch C-SPAN programming via 2,000 affiliated cable systems.

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