

NEWS FROM:

C-SPANERICA*S NETWORK

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

Release:

IMMEDIATE

1/28/86

Contact:

Susan Swain

202-737-3220

C-SPAN'S LIVE COVERAGE ALLOWS VIEWERS TO RESPOND TO SHUTTLE MISHAP

Press Conferences, Congressional Reaction, Satellite Footage

Are Offered with Viewer Call-ins During Special Programming

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- C-SPAN viewers had an immediate opportunity to express their emotions today following the tragic explosion of the Space Shuttle Columbia. In all, more than 10 hours of programming was devoted to the disaster.

"We are not trying to compete with the news services in providing information" moderator Brian Lamb told the viewers during a special call-in program. "We hope you'll turn to other networks for news of the mishap. We want to give people an opportunity to express their thoughts on the tragedy."

The U.S. House of Representatives, which had been in session live over C-SPAN, went into immediate recess upon learning of the accident. Shortly thereafter, C-SPAN opened its telephone lines to allow the public to comment on the events as news reports continued to unfold from Florida and Houston.

During the initial call-in program, which lasted nearly two hours, C-SPAN aired 59 calls from viewers as diverse as Florida eyewitnesses, schoolchildren who had been watching the liftoff, former NASA employees, and engineers who had worked on space programs. Callers phoned in their condolences for the families of the victims and offered their thoughts on the future of the U.S. space program.

Special programming continued on C-SPAN throughout the day and evening, including <u>live coverage of a Capitol Hill press conference</u> called by Florida congressman Bill Nelson— a member of the most recent shuttle mission, coverage of a <u>press conference called by NASA</u> in Florida(in its entirety), <u>press statements</u> from Capitol Hill from Sen. John Glenn and others, and live call—in programs with <u>9 members of the Congressional committee</u> that <u>oversees the space program</u>. Live programming continued until 10:30 pm est. C-SPAN programming can now be seen in 23 million U.S. cable homes.

NEWS FROM:

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Release:

IMMEDIATE

January 29, 1986

Contact:

Susan Swain

Kathy C. Murphy

(202) 737-3220

C-SPAN COVERAGE OF SHUTTLE MISHAP: TEN HOURS OF SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

201 Viewer Calls, Live Press Conferences, Special Congressional Sessions and More

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- During ten hours of special programming, C-SPAN viewers had a different angle on Tuesday's explosion of the space shuttle Challenger -- the human perspective. Shortly after the news of the accident, C-SPAN opened its viewer telephone lines and kept them open throughout the day, allowing people to give voice to a tragedy that rocked the nation.

Telling viewers "we're not a news organization and can't compete in giving you news of the accident," C-SPAN call-in moderator Brian Lamb suggested that people tune in to news programs for information and come back to C-SPAN to hear the nation's reaction to the tragic events.

In all, <u>C-SPAN</u> aired the comments and questions of 201 viewers during call—in segments that kept the cable network's programming lines jammed with incoming calls. The callers included a 13-year old student, Florida eyewitnesses, teachers who had applied for the space program, former NASA engineers, and many others. Often, callers just wanted to express their sympathy for the victims; others had questions on the accident and on the future of the shuttle program.

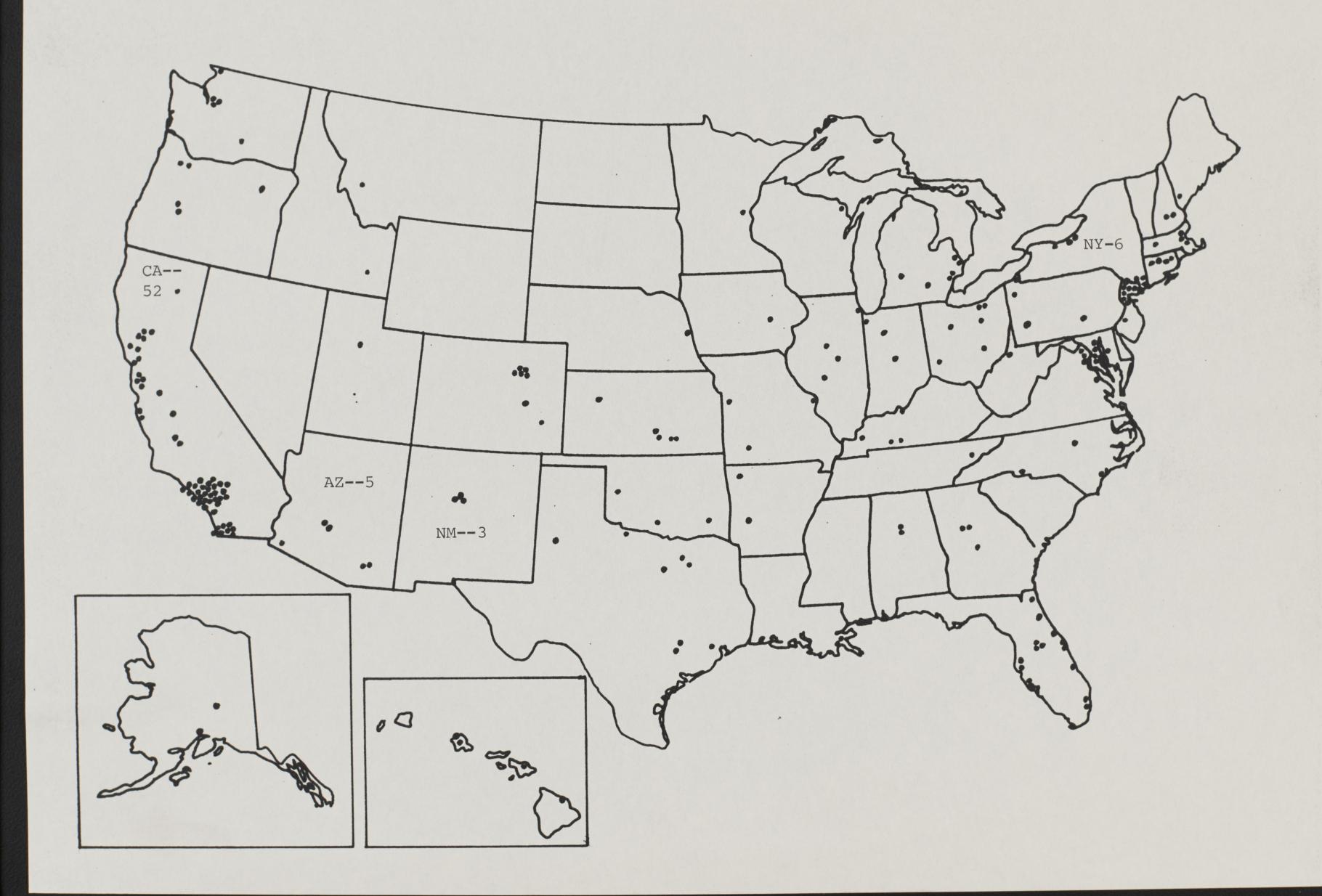
During the ten hours, C-SPAN viewers also saw live coverage of a special session of Congress called to eulogize the astronauts, live footage from NASA in Florida, press statements delivered by former space program participants Sen. John Glenn and Sen. Jake Garn, a press conference called by NASA, and a Capitol Hill press conference called by recent astronaut Rep. Bill Nelson of Florida. Seven members of the Congressional subcommittee that oversees NASA appeared before the C-SPAN cameras to respond to viewer questions.

C-SPAN Executive Producer Carrie Collins feels that in situations such as the shuttle mishap, C-SPAN has an important role to play in the scheme of television offerings: "With so little news coming out of Florida, the real story was the nation's response to the shuttle accident. Nowhere could you judge the pulse of the nation better than through the callers to our program."

Ms. Collins adds, "Television critics observed that in times of national tragedy television coverage creates a national community by allowing us to collectively witness events. C-SPAN's television call-in programs provide a service by giving a voice to that national community."

Nationwide, C-SPAN programming can be seen in more than 23 million homes, via 2,000 affiliated cable systems.

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1/28/86

	SWAIN	
	MURPHY	
	BAUER	
	GIBSON	
	KILEY	
CLIP	PAGE	

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(704) 372-2320



Charles H. Crutchfield President

PERSONAL

February 4, 1986

Mr. Brian Lamb, President C-SPAN Suite 155 400 North Capitol Street, NW Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Brian:

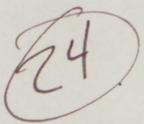
Although I was watching CBS and NBC all day and night last Tuesday, and did not check C-SPAN, I was terribly impressed with Lee Wing's January 29 letter regarding your perfectly marvelous public service relating to the Challenger's disaster.

Based on Lee's description, I believe this job merits a top Peabody Award. I am therefore suggesting to Jim Goodmon by copy of this letter that he and I submit it for the 1986 Award. I would appreciate it therefore if you would send Jim and me a few paragraphs on just how it was put together, along with the results, i.e., number of calls-- if possible a map showing where the calls came from-- then some quotes from across the country.

Whether you know it or not, young man, what you did on this fateful day was humanizing the broadcast industry. A lot of commercial and public stations have done superb jobs in this area in the past, and today are doing even more, but from where I sit yours was more meaningful to more people (nationally) than anything I have ever heard of.

Warm personal regards.

CC: James F. Goodmon



DATE January 27,1986

TIME 12:30 pm

PHONES 12:00

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emb,	Carrie Collis	25		_
LAST	TOPIC	CABLE SYSTEM	LINE	M/F
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			12	m
			5	M
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(22 calls)

DATE JONUAY 27, 1986

TIME 12:30pm

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AFFILTATION					

MODERATOR Carrie Collins, Brianhamb

LAST

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Pocatello, Edaho
Los Angeles, CA

Weymouth, Mass

Tuscan, Ariz.

Orlando, FL

Riverside, CAL

Duncan, Okla

10 CPUS

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Austin TX				5	F
Denton TX				4	M
Arlington TX			·		
Vancouver WA				6	M
Wilmington NC				2	M
San Diegoc CA				7	m
Norwalk Ct.				3	M
Thousand Oaks CA				5	M
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		PHONES			i
GUEST					
AFFILIATION				20	
MODERATOR				MM	
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ada, Okla.	Amo		Trans Hom	41	n
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Guma, Ariz.	1/5+		Rogers	6 1	=
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Seattle Wash.	15+		Viacom	71	$\overline{\gamma}$
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7150		DATF		
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Wichita Falls, Tex			Vista	4
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Fairbanks, Alask			Ma Can	15
Dallas, Tex.	15t		2	2
Davis, CA.	1st		Davis Op.	6
Mary Ville, Tenn.	1/5/		?.	3
Oxnard, CA	1/5+		Jones	7
transi	tion			
Talls Church VA				4
Waipahu Hu)			5
Wells mains				02
Detroid mich	/			8
Middletourn OH	·			2
Golden CO				P
Springseild MO				3
Santal Rosa CA				17

M/F

DATE PHONES. AFFILIATION_ MODERATOR LAST CITY, STATE CALL TOPIC CABLE SYSTEM LINE

		DATE			
(24)		TIME			+
		PHONES			1
GUEST 5:05pm>				2	1
AFFILIATION				16/	4
MODERATOR Chiles reac	dy			51	
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Wechuta 15				2	M
Orange (ounty (A)				5	F
State College PA				3	m
Orange County CA				7	M
Ballimore MD				4	m
Hometu Hilo HAW				6	()
Harrishurg PA				2	F
Pollock Herels Pines	A			8	F
Camp Spring MD				3	M
Whittier CA				7	m
Mulvane KS				İ	m
Codar Rapido Joua				7	m
Rochester NY				4	M
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aloha, Re Oregon	i 1st		TCI	5	m
Erie, PA	1st		Ene Cablevision	3	m
San Diego, CA	1st		Cablevision	6	M
Raleigh, NC	154		?	4	F
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	DATF	
(1)	TIME	,
	PHONES Cindy	i
GUEST		
AFFILIATION 4:15	75:05pm	22
MODERATOR		15M
CITY, STATE 3:30 LAST CALL	TOPIC CABLE SYSTEM	LINE M/F
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(Attage Brove OR		6 m
Fort Walton Beach F(TIF
Modesto CA		16 m
New York City		2 m
Annaheim Cal		7m
Richmond VA		2 m
West Ookina CA		6 m
Clearwater FLAKEdy	cation 4:45pm	. 3 F
Hayward CA		5 F
Morgantown WYA		1/m
mountainview C	al	6m
Venice F1		3 m
alburque NM		18 t
Comana Neb.		14 m
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Valparaiso ind.		3 (Y)
Stanton (al		6 101
Mortinghoro		11m

DATF___ PHONES GUEST AFFILIATION MODERATOR 175 to here LAST CITY, STATE CALL TOPIC CABLE SYSTEM M/F 10: ALL CONCERNED (CALL-IN HOSTS, EXECUTIVES, UPDATE, ETC)

FROM: PUBLIC RELATIONS

RE: PHONE CALLS DURING SHUTTLE CALL-INS

IN THE INTERESTS OF UNIFORMITY, WE TO SUGGEST THAT WOULD LIKE EVERYONE TO USE THE

FOLLOWING NUMBERS WHEN REFERRING TO TUESDAY'S SPECIAL PROGRAMMING:

- . 10 HOURS OF ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING
- · 201 VIEWER CALLS
- . AIR TIMES 12:30 PM UNTIL 10:30 PM EST
 THANKS!