



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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C-SPAN AIRS EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS OF SUPREME COURT ORAL ARGUMENTS

Washington, D.C., August 3, 1993 -- C-SPAN viewers will be the first national audience to hear extensive recordings of actual oral arguments from the U.S. Supreme Court.

On Saturday, August 7, from 7:00- 8:00 PM ET, Supreme Court scholar Peter Irons will appear on "America and the Courts" to discuss his new work, *May It Please the Court ...* -- a set of audio tapes and transcripts of 23 notable Supreme Court oral arguments.

Under federal court procedures, no television or radio coverage of Supreme Court oral arguments is permitted. However, since 1955, the Court has preserved audio recordings of its oral arguments at the National Archives and made these tapes available to the press and scholars for research purposes.

The C-SPAN program will include extensive portions of audio recordings of the actual oral arguments before the Supreme Court from the *Roe v. Wade* case.

Mr. Irons's new work is the first to challenge those restrictions and make audio recordings of the Court's oral arguments widely available to the public.

C-SPAN will be the first television network to air extensive excerpts of the oral arguments. Only two other news services have ever broadcast the arguments in the last 20 years, and these excerpts were restricted to three-four minutes each.

C-SPAN's interview with Peter Irons is part of the cable network's continuing commitment to coverage of the Supreme Court. C-SPAN, available in 59 million households, is funded entirely by America's cable television companies as a public service.

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High Court Unhappy About Sales of Taped Sessions

By LAURIE ASSED

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Bookstores soon will be selling tape-recordings of Supreme Court arguments in 23 major cases, including the 1973 legalization of abortion, and court officials are plenty unhappy about it.

The sales are a "clear violation" of the National Archives' agreement allowing the tapes to be copied by Peter Irons, a political science professor at the University of California at San Diego, court spokeswoman Toni House said Tuesday.

"The court is considering what legal remedies may be appropriate," she added.

Irons is the co-editor of "May It Please The Court..." a book of transcripts of Supreme Court arguments accompanied by six cassette tapes with highlights of live argument sessions.

The book and tapes are being published by New Press, a New York-based non-profit publisher, and will be sold for \$75.

The tapes include arguments in the 1973 Roe vs. Wade case that established the constitutional right to abortion, the 1963 case that granted indigent felony defendants the right to a court-appointed lawyer, and the 1974 argument over President Nixon's effort to shield his White House tapes.

The high court has tape-recorded arguments before the justices since 1955. The tapes are deposited in the National Archives, where researchers are allowed to copy them if they sign an agreement promising to use them "for private research and teaching purposes only."

People who sign the agreements also must promise not to recopy the tapes or allow them to be broadcast.

Irons said in an interview to be broadcast Saturday on the C-SPAN cable television network that his goal was to increase public understanding of the Supreme Court, which bars all other audio or video recording of its proceedings.

Irons told C-SPAN he questions whether the restrictions on use of the tapes are legally valid.

The books and tapes are to go on sale in bookstores within a few weeks, said New Press director Andre Schiffrin.

The sale of the tapes follows a controversy in May over the Library of Congress' decision to open the late Justice Thurgood Marshall's court papers to the public. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist sharply criticized the decision, saying it was the result of "bad judgment," but Librarian of Congress James K. Billington refused to diminish access to the papers.

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On Saturday, August 7 at 7 ^{B PM} ^{work} ET, Supreme Court scholar Peter Irons will appear on "America and the Courts" to discuss his new ~~book~~ ^{work}, *May It Please the Court ...* -- a set of audio tapes and transcripts of 23 notable Supreme Court oral arguments. ⁹⁹ The C-SPAN program will include portions of audio recordings of the actual oral arguments before the Supreme Court from cases such as *Roe v. Wade*, *Miranda v. Arizona* and the *Pentagon Papers*. ³ C-SPAN will be the first television network to air extensive excerpts of the oral arguments. Only two ^{other} news services have broadcast these arguments in the last 20 years, and these excerpts ~~have lasted only four minutes long.~~ ^{each.} ~~were contained to three-~~ ^{restricted}

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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DATE: 8/4/93

TO: Tim Burger - Roll Call

FROM: KIM SHEARIN

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NOTE: "American in the Courts"

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Kim

Shearin

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