

NEWS FROM:

C-SPAN AMERICA'S NETWORK

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

Release:

NOVEMBER 6, 1985

Contact:

Susan Swain (C-SPAN)
202-737-3220

Robert Desramaux
(House of Commons)
613-996-3936

CANADIAN HOUSE TUNES IN CONGRESS

Canada's Parliament Newest C-SPAN Affiliate; Network Plans Parliamentary Telecasts

Beginning Wednesday, November 6, members of the Canadian House of Commons will be able to keep a closer eye on their colleagues to the south. That's the day when C-SPAN CEO Brian Lamb and Canadian House Speaker John Bosley flip a switch to begin offering C-SPAN programming to the Canadian House office buildings.

According to Mr. Lamb, C-SPAN is providing its signal to the Parliament's "OASIS Network" without cost, as a gesture of goodwill from the U.S. cable industry. "This event is a footnote in cable history," says Mr. Lamb. "Cable's technology will now provide an on-going link between the legislative bodies of neighboring governments."

OASIS spokesperson Robert Desramaux says that C-SPAN will be offered on channel 49 of the Parliamentary cable system. According to Mr. Desramaux, their 104-channel cable system links five buildings on Ottawa's Parliament Hill with "a completely integrated voice, video, and data network." The network, which carries gavel-to-gavel proceedings of the House of Commons and about 70 other services, currently has 1500 active users among the Parliamentary offices, including 282 members of the House of Commons and the capital press gallery.

While in Ottawa, Mr. Lamb will meet with Arthur Silverman, Administrator of the House of Commons, to discuss further uses for the special new C-SPAN affiliate, including:

- C-SPAN telecasts of the Parliament's "question period" during which the Prime Minister and his cabinet respond to the inquiries of the opposition party.
- satellite hook-ups whereby members of the U.S. Congress and members of the Parliament can make joint appearances on C-SPAN call-in programs.

C-SPAN's gavel-to-gavel coverage of Congress and other public events is currently available to 22 million U.S. households on 2,000 affiliated cable systems. By contrast, House of Commons telecasts are available to 4.5 million Canadian cable subscribers via 187 affiliated cable companies. The Canadian House was the world's first legislative body to televise its proceedings, going on the air in October 1977. Like their American counterparts, the Canadian Senate is still debating whether to allow cameras inside its chambers.

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NEWS FROM:

C-SPAN AMERICA'S NETWORK

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

Release: IMMEDIATE
November 5, 1985

Contact: Susan Swain (C-SPAN)
202-737-3220

Robert Desramaux
(House of Commons)
613-996-3936

photo available by 3:30 pm

HOUSE OF COMMONS TUNES IN CONGRESS

Canadian Parliament Newest C-SPAN Affiliate; Network Plans Parliamentary Telecasts

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CABLE SATELLITE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK

Canadian telecast

talked to:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| (1) Canadian Press office | (interested) |
| * (2) New York Times | yes! |
| (3) Associated Press | yes |
| (4) UPI | still considering |
| (5) Time | (w/c/b) |
| (6) Congressional Quarterly | no thanks |
| (7) Gannett | never phoned back |
| (8) Globe & Mail | yes |
| (9) Broadcasting | yes, w photo |
| (10) Cablevision | yes " " |
| (11) Multichannel News | " , " " |
| (12) Communications Daily | yes. |

also: sent to 350 TV critics

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| (13) Roll Call | yes, w/photo |
| (14) Washingtonian | |

STATES OF THE NATION '85 -- ^{special}
~~A~~ turning point

~~For~~ C-SPAN programming ~~that~~ benefitted ^{ing} ~~the~~ viewers & operators.

Since Washington's issues ~~are~~ often evolve from the grassroots, C-SPAN committed itself to a year of in-depth coverage of state & local issues. From January to June, viewers heard the issues in a D.C. setting. ~~At~~ mid year, C-SPAN crews & earth station ^{began} ~~took~~ a tour of 11 State Capitals, introducing viewers to important local issues & bringing local leaders to a national audience. With ~~the~~ ^a national spotlight on these cities, C-SPAN visits generated press coverage and goodwill for cable.

~~90~~
87

tele BPC taking to dinner

House of Commons
sto

parliamentary
television
network

what offices?

first legis
in world

Oct, 1977

how many people can watch

6 million

Signal dist
line via
satellite

to 188
cable
co

satellite dish
galaxy
Wellington Bldg

decoded signal
each bldg has
its own
sub-head end

modulated out
49

Oasis network Nov, 1984

integrated voice, video + data network

links 5 bldgs of parliamentary

has 3,000 drops

1500 active users

total passed
~~3,900,000~~

4,500,000

8,900,000
households

video services { 104 channels ea
70 or 50 channels avai
complete menu

~~25,000~~
25,000

electronic mail
gate

282 /

→ Senate
is in process of
deciding
of

internally generated
info channels
→ House bus
govt-to-govt proceedings
of Ho
Eng
French
[floor sound] no simi
inter

— demand channels
that members can
call up

Automation
Services
+
inf
Systems
projec

— 5 satellite
CSOAN
superstations
from VAN BC.

Edmonton, AL
Hamilton, Ont
Halifax

Canadian were first to
 carried in to
 Canadian cable
 home
 Looking at possibly
 extending these
 to other
 Contact in Canada

On Wednesday, November 6, Canadian House Speaker _____ and C-SPAN
 CEO Brian Lamb will flip a switch to bring C-SPAN coverage of the U.S. Congress
 into the offices of the Canadian parliament.

"It's a historic move for cable," says Brian Lamb. "Cable television is providing
 a permanent technological link between the legislative bodies of two governments."

Lamb says that C-SPAN -- which is a privately-funded company -- plans to televise
 sessions from the Canadian House of Commons. In addition, viewers of the public
 affairs cable network will also see U.S. Congressmen link up by satellite
 with members of the Canadian parliament for interviews and live viewer call-in
 programs.

Ironically, the C-SPAN feed soon to be seen by the Canadian Parliament can
not be watched by the members of the U.S. Congress. C-SPAN is not yet available
 on the internal Capitol Hill cable system.

Elsewhere, however, C-SPAN's round the clock programming can be seen
 by 22 million cable subscribers on 2,000 affiliated systems.

virtually
 part on
 the industry

where signal
 is being
 fed into

Population of Can
 member of House

5 bldg
 how many
 Parlia

press gallery

###

teleconferences

CBE

2:15
 4 days
 11:15

providing at no cost
 C-SP signal
 as a gesture from our industry

discussing live
 "question periods"
 future call-in
 programs
 live telecon
 call ins

PM + minority
 11:15

(313) 942-8984

Canada

- yes (1) - globe + mail
- yes (2) - Canadian press office
- yes - (3) - AP - Mc Cluskey
- poss. - (4) - Elaine Povich - UPI poss.
- (5) USA Today / - call Chris Allen Mon.
no 276-5828 (left msg)
- no - (6) Knight-Ridder - Charlie Green (left msg)
- yes (7) Comm Daily - Mary Crowley
- yes (8) Wash Post - Jack Carmody
- (9) CBC local - Ottawa
- (10) Russ Clarkson - CBC radio (BPL interview)

metro photo
232-7720

Jimmy

1321-14th St NW
2005

done -
PR

— Callers who are interested in being interviewed by a reporter on their reactions to our coverage of the Canadian House of Commons.

1. Charles Hodge (H) (703) 671.8114
Arlington, VA

2. Richard Gonzalez (H) (714) 861.8167
Walnut, CA

3. Joe Bryson (H) (615) 693.7058
Knoxville, TN

4. Chris Shepard. (H) (315) 622. ~~3184~~ 3194
Syracuse, NY

5. Hazel Fisher (H) (818) 284.3572
Alhambra CA

6. Simon Schwartz (H) (617) 783.1138
Boston, MA

7. Billy Reece (512) 674.3862
San Antonio, TX