

NEWS FROM:

C-SPAN AMERICA'S NETWORK

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Release: December 2, 1986
after

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C-SPAN II MAKES TEMPORARY RETURN TO SATCOM 4, TRANSPONDER 8

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 1 -- While negotiations continue for a permanent satellite home for C-SPAN II, network president Paul FitzPatrick announced today that an agreement has been signed with QVC, Inc. to lease temporary transponder space on Satcom 4 (F-4) in time to meet the U.S. Senate's January 1987 start up.

Mr. FitzPatrick says that C-SPAN II will be available off Satcom 4's transponder 8 -- the same transponder C-SPAN II has been using since July -- when the U.S. Senate convenes on January 6. C-SPAN II will be using this F-4 transponder 24 hours a day.

The contract with the Philadelphia-based QVC, Inc. extends until May 31, 1987, giving officials of the public affairs cable cooperative further time to secure a long-term home for C-SPAN II, the network which provides live coverage of U.S. Senate debates and other public affairs programming.

C-SPAN marketing representatives began notifying 286 cable systems which currently carry C-SPAN II of the F-4 decision-- the latest development in a C-SPAN II satellite saga which began on July 27 when the fledgling network was bumped from Satcom 3-R, transponder 19 following a technical malfunction of that bird.

Several satellite options are being considered to provide a permanent berth for C-SPAN II. Those options will be among several items addressed by the C-SPAN Board of Directors, a 40-member panel of cable operators which convenes this week for an annual meeting in Anaheim, California. Mr. FitzPatrick says that the non-profit cable cooperative hopes to have a contract signed for a long-term C-SPAN II satellite transponder within the next few weeks.

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