

C-SPAN

Tenth Anniversary

1979-1989

Contacts:
Gene Grabowski
Kristin Wennberg
(202)737-3220

C-SPAN AIRS "AMERICAN PROFILE" INTERVIEWS WITH KASSEBAUM, LANTOS

Washington, D.C., October 5 -- On October 9 (Columbus Day Observed), C-SPAN will air separate, 60-minute "American Profile" interviews with Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS) and Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA).

On national holidays, C-SPAN's "American Profile" series offers viewers in-depth, personal portraits of prominent Americans.

Sen. Kassebaum, elected to the Senate in 1978, sits on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, subcommittees on Foreign Relations, Labor and Human Resources, and the Special Committee on Aging. She was the only Republican to vote against the nomination of John Tower to be Secretary of Defense last March. Sen. Kassebaum is the daughter of 1936 Republican presidential nominee Alf Landon. During her interview, she discusses her career and her private interests.

Rep. Lantos, a 5th term congressman from California, is Chairman of the House Government Operations subcommittee on housing and employment, which is probing alleged mismanagement at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In his interview, Rep. Lantos reflexes on the HUD investigation, his homeland of Hungary, and his career as a congressman.

The "American Profile" interviews will air back-to-back, with Sen. Kassebaum's interview first, at 8am, 9pm, and midnight ET.

Monday, October 9 (Columbus Day Observed)
"American Profile" interviews

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS) 8am, 9pm, and midnight

Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA) 9am, 10pm, and Tuesday,
October 10, at 1am ET

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Robert Feder - Chicago Sun-Times

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: "American Profile" interviews on C-SPAN

DATE: 10/5/89

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover): 2

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FROM: Kristin Wannberg

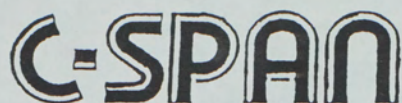
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FROM: Kristin Wannberg

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TO: Walter Saunders - Rocky Mountain News

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Hold for Release:
Saturday, October 7, 1989

Contacts:
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C-SPAN AIRS INTERVIEW WITH SEN. NANCY KASSEBAUM

Washington, D.C.--On Monday, October 9 (Columbus Day Observed), C-SPAN will air an "American Profile" interview with Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS). During a 60-minute interview, the senator reflects on her career and private interests. The interview will air at 8am, 9pm, and midnight ET.

On national holidays, C-SPAN's "American Profile" series offers viewers in-depth, personal portraits of prominent Americans.

The following are excerpts from C-SPAN's "American Profile" interview with Sen. Nancy Kassebaum:

On being a woman in politics:

"I've never been one to believe that one should factor gender in on the issues. Obviously, it makes some difference and, as I've said, it's probably been more of a plus than a minus because I've been asked to speak places where being a woman and a Republican, I've been given a voice that I wouldn't have had otherwise. And I'm sure sometimes that this is unnerving to my colleagues. As I joked with Senator Dole, I'm sure some days he must wonder how he's caught between two women, Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole, and me on the other hand. Here he is trying to be Republican leader of the Senate.

So it's been an advantage and it's one I hope not to play on. But it has given me an opportunity. The disadvantage sometimes, on defense issues for instance, my male colleagues would wonder if I knew as much about defense as I should. Of course, if we agree, then they happen to think I do. But you have to on occasion doubly prove your point."

On her style as a senator:

"I've always said I don't think you have to need to be aggressive to be successful. You have to work in a way in which you feel comfortable working, but you have to know the issue and develop a point of view.

I've always felt I work best when drawing other senators in support of that issue, on both sides of that aisle, and not caring a lot whether your name is all that identified with the issue. Sometimes you lose (your identification with an issue). Now I can get a little bit annoyed, I must confess, when that happens, but on the other hand, I care more about the issue and that's what I think is important."

On her father, 1936 Republican presidential candidate Alf Landon:

"I have valued much of Dad's. One, his sense of humor. His great belief that one had to study history in order to understand where we are going. He never traveled, but he had a keen sense of understanding of foreign policy and world affairs, and I think that's progressive in the sense that you're open to new ideas."

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TO: Jeanette Love-Wichita Eagle-Beacon

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: "American Profile" interview w/ Sen. Nancy Kassebaum

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TO: April Hailey - KAMU-TV

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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April,
Please ignore the "hold for release"
if you need the quotes for tonight.
Please give me a call if you need
anything else. - Kristin



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The following are excerpts from C-SPAN's "American Profile" interview with Rep. Tom Lantos:

His Closeness to his Homeland:

"I feel very close [to Hungary]. I grew up there. I was born there, I went to school there....

"When you come from a small country, and this is a very small country [of] 10 million people, geographically it's a very compact country, you become saturated with its history, its geography, with its literature, with its music. All of those things are very much a part of me.

"[My wife] Annette and I go back at least once a year. I left in 1947 for political reasons as the Iron Curtain was closing down and the Communists were taking over. Annette left in 1948.

"Between that period and 1964 we could not go back for political reasons. We first went back with our two little daughters in 1964. We've been going back every year since and some years several times."

World War II in Hungary:

"Hitler's army moved into Hungary on the 19th of March, 1944, at which point my life and the lives of hundreds of thousands of others dramatically changed.

"That was the period when hundreds of thousands of Jews were put in rail cars and shipped to Auschwitz and that was the time when I became active in the anti-Nazi movement.

"That was the time when the person to whom I owe my life, Raoul Wallenberg, came to Budapest, and with a degree of heroism that even in retrospect is very difficult to understand, put his own life between the Nazi war machine and persecuted people and with unbelievable heroism and creativity saved a hundred thousand people, including Annette and myself."

Congress as an Institution:

"The first thing that I find remarkable and enormously satisfying is the openness of the institution.

"Although I represent a district which is in California, I have a steady flow of people from my district coming in here. I have an avalanche of mail.

"I have the opportunity with Annette to go home most weekends and we have meetings—town meetings, small meetings, one-on-one meetings and the extent to which a member of Congress continues to be involved with his own congressional district...makes the term United States representative a very meaningful term."

-more-

Add one

His Subcommittee's HUD Probe:

"It has taken a lot of my time. When I took over the chairmanship of this subcommittee a couple of years ago, I thought that it was just my turn to head up this subcommittee for a while....

"I began digging. I suspect this is my academic background, I take on a new assignment, I want to be well-informed of what I'm doing.

"I could not believe what I was reading and that is when and that is why I decided that I would open a series of hearings which have led to this avalanche....

"We didn't realize how far and how deep this scandal is reaching. But I'm determined to get to the bottom of it and I think our government will be cleaner as a result."

Future of the HUD Investigation:

"We could hold hearings for 10 years dealing with problems that occurred during this eight-year period [of the Reagan administration].

"My purpose is to highlight each of the types of problems that the HUD scandal entails and then allow the appropriate bodies...to do its job.

"Namely, to bring people to trial and, if necessary, to put people into jail."

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TO: John Carman - San Francisco ChronicleFROM: Kristin WannbergRE: "American Profile" interview w/ Rep. LantosDATE: 10/5/89NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover): 3

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