

News Release



Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network

400 North Capitol Street N.W., Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 737-3220

Contacts: Rayne Pollack
Kristin Wennberg

131 AYES, 32 NAYES: BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS SAYS YES TO T.V.

Washington D.C., July 25 -- The British House of Commons voted last week to make televised coverage of its proceedings permanent. The move will allow American viewers continued access to the Prime Minister's "Question Time" and other British Parliament debates via C-SPAN.

During the House of Commons T.V. debate, an amendment was proposed by one member of Parliament that a designated gavel-to-gavel television channel be set up, using C-SPAN as a specific model.

"We are very pleased that the British House of Commons has voted to officially sanction permanent television coverage", said C-SPAN Director of Programming Terry Murphy. " 'Question Time' is one of our most popular features, and now that there is a commitment to permanent coverage, C-SPAN will explore the possibility of airing more live events and debates."

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C-SPAN is available in 50.6 million households via 3900 cable system affiliates nationwide and around the world via satellite. The network is privately funded and is a public service of the cable television industry.

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Richard Huff - Variety

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release

DATE: 7-26-90

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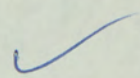
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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Jeanine Aversa - Multichannel News

FROM: Rayne Pollack, Press Information

RE: House of Commons

DATE: 7-25-90

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TO: Deborah Arney - MSO

FROM: Rayne Pollack, Press Information

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TO: Laura Malt - Electronic Media

FROM: Rayne Pollack, Press Information

RE: House of Commons

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TO: Simon Applebaum - Cablevision

FROM: Rayne Pollack, Press Information

RE: House of Commons

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TO: Stewart Schley - Cable World

FROM: Rayne Pollack, Press Information

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Catherine Stratten - Cable TV Business

FROM: Rayne Pollack, Press Information

RE: House of Commons

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TO: Les Luchter - Cable Marketing

FROM: Rayne Pollack, Press Information

RE: House of Commons

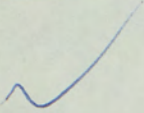
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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Mark Schone - Channels

FROM: Rayne Pollack, Press Information

RE: House of Commons

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FAX MESSAGE (# in Washington X 0101-202-737-6226)

TO: Kathy Z.

FROM: Terri Barker

*Deputy Leader
of the Labour
Party*

Hi Kathy...here's what's up in the House of Commons:

On Tuesday the main (and noisiest) topic was Nicholas Ridley and the "Checquers" memo. You know about Ridley; in case you haven't heard about the memo, it's this: Checquers is Thatcher's private estate; several months ago, she summoned a panel of experts on Germany to assess the situation there, with the changes in East Germany and the coming unification. The memo that they produced at the end of the meetings was intended to be secret; but last week it was leaked to a London newspaper. What made news was a paragraph or two that purported to sum up the German national character as "angst, aggressiveness, assertiveness, bullying, egotism, inferiority complex, sentimentality." Obviously, this does not look good after Ridley's remarks, and there has been wide outcry over the Government's handling of British-German relations. In question time, almost every question was on the memo or relations with Germany; Thatcher defended the memo, saying that overall the document was not anti-German, and that it was never intended to represent her Government's views.

On Thursday, the Commons was a bit calmer. Neil Kinnock referred to a speech delivered by Thatcher on Wednesday to a group promoting women in politics. In her speech, she called for tighter rules on child support, saying that fathers should be required to provide support for their children by law; in her words, "Parenthood is for life." Kinnock and others also referred to the Government's decision this week on Community Care, which is a program to provide care for elderly and disabled people in their homes, and which would be partially funded by local councils through poll tax receipts. The government announced this week that to keep poll tax levels down, expansion of the Community care program will now not take place until after the next elections. There has been a lot of fuss over the announcement, with Labour charging that the government has left the elderly and handicapped out in the cold. (the original plan had been to give more money, and therefore add more people to the program, this year.)

That's about all this week...call if you have questions.
This next stuff is for Barkley...

The TV debate started at 6:29 and ended at about 10:00, maybe a few seconds before. You should make a note to viewers that MPs also debated and voted on an amendment that would have ended coverage if a designated TV channel for gavel-to-gavel coverage were not set up within 12 months. The amendment was sponsored by Dale Campbell-Savours a Labour MP from Workington. At approx. 8:26 there is an interesting exchange with Roger Gale and Austin Mitchell on C-SPAN; you might want to tell Lamb about it. At 10 pm the speaker called for a vote on the amendment; there was a long period of silence (no audio, but there is video) and at 10:13 the vote was announced as 94 nays, 67 ayes, defeating it. The vote on the entire report was at 10:15, with a final result of 131 ayes, 32 nays. You probably want to v/o the video right at 10 pm, and maybe come back at 10:23, when the vote is announced, or else just give the vote results in a closing v/o.

Call me if you have any questions...T.

Document of Parliament
an amend. was proposed that a design gavel-to-gavel telev. channel be set-up, using C-SPAN as a specific model.
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131 AYES, 32 NAYES: BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS SAYS YES TO T.V.

week The move will allow
Washington D.C., July 24 -- The British House of Commons *voted last* has voted to make televised coverage of its proceedings permanent, ~~allowing~~ American viewers continued access to the Prime Minister's "Question Time" and other British ~~government~~ debates via C-SPAN. *to the H.O. Comm British Parliament*

IS
During the House of Commons T.V. debate, ~~the~~ C-SPAN network was used as a specific model in an amendment which proposed that television coverage end if a designated channel for gavel-to-gavel coverage were not set up within 12 months. *Be set up*

"We are very pleased that the British House of Commons has voted to officially sanction permanent television coverage", said C-SPAN Director of Programming Terry Murphy. " 'Question Time' ~~has been one~~ of our most popular features, and now that there is a commitment to permanent coverage, C-SPAN will explore the possibility of airing more live events and debates."

At least
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In March, ~~following strong viewer response to House of Commons programming~~, C-SPAN began airing the Prime Minister's "Question Time" in a weekly half-hour time slot on Sundays at 9:00pm ET. "Question Time" features Margaret Thatcher being grilled by her often raucous fellow members of Parliament.

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