

# CRS Report for Congress

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## How to Obtain Copies of Videotapes of Proceedings of Congress and Network and Cable Television Broadcasts

Michelle M. Springer  
Information Research Specialist  
Updated by Treva Turner  
Senior Research Librarian  
Congressional Reference Division

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### SUMMARY

The following information has been compiled in response to numerous requests made by congressional offices for videotape copies of congressional proceedings and programs from network or cable television. Most audiovisual materials that are deposited at the Library of Congress are under copyright restrictions which prohibit loan or duplication (even for Members of Congress). If viewing a program is all that is required, congressional staff may wish to contact the reference staff of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound (MBRS) Division at 7-8572 to see if a program is in the Library's collection and make an appointment to see it. Videos in the Library's collection can only be viewed during Motion Picture Reading Room hours (8:30 - 5:00 M-F), and appointments must be made in advance. (Note: Offices that have access to the Library's online catalog may search Library audiovisual holdings in MUMS using the ;file=av command. However, not locating a program in MUMS does not mean the Library does not have it. Again, check with reference staff of the MBRS Division at 7-8572.)

### U.S. HOUSE AND SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS

#### House and Senate Recording Studios

House offices may order copies of any House floor proceedings (note: this means no hearings) from the last 60 days from House Records and Registration (5-1300). Senate floor proceedings from the last 30 days are available from the Senate Recording Studio (4-3788). Office accounts will be charged the processing fees.

#### Library of Congress

The MBRS Division receives the master videotapes of the House and Senate floor proceedings. Holdings for the House begin January 23, 1983; holdings for the Senate

begin May 5, 1986. There is a 4 to 10 month lag before tapes are received. Once received, it takes 3 to 6 weeks to produce viewing copies from the master. To view the tapes, call 7-8572 and make an appointment (note: access is by date only).

To purchase a copy, call 7-0246 or 7-5623 (Public Services Office, MBRS). The requester must supply a marked photocopy of the pages from the *Congressional Record* indicating the exact segment desired. He must also sign an agreement that the selections will not be used for political or commercial purposes.

### **PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHES**

For copies of presidential addresses to the nation or to Congress, check with Doug Thurman in the National Archives' Office of Presidential Libraries, (202) 501-5705.

### **NETWORK AND CABLE NEWS PROGRAMS**

The Senate Recording Studio tapes major news broadcasts and weekend news programs and keeps them for 30 days. They will make copies on request for Senate offices (4-3788). This service is not provided by the House Recording Studio. To order a tape from the Senate Recording Studio, House staff must make the request through a Senate office. Office accounts are charged a nominal fee for the service.

The MBRS Division at the Library does very selective taping of WETA (PBS) programming (e.g., public affairs specials, occasional *Frontline* programs). Check with the reference staff to see if they taped a particular program. In the past, some news agencies deposited copies of their broadcasts with the Library for copyright purposes. Currently, there is little copyright deposit of news broadcasts with the Library. Again, check with MBRS reference staff for Library holdings.

Other possible sources are listed below:

<b><u>Program</u></b>	<b><u>Distributor and Telephone Numbers</u></b>
<b>ABC News</b>	(ABC) 1-800-913-3434
<b>CBS Sunday</b>	(CBS) 1-800-848-3256
<b>CBS This Morning</b>	(CBS) 1-800-848-3256
<b>Charlie Rose</b>	(Journal Graphics) 1-800-825-5746
<b>CNN</b>	(CNN) 1-800-277-2698 (Journal Graphics) 1-800-825-5746
<b>C-SPAN*</b>	(C-SPAN) 1-202-626-7963
<b>David Frost</b>	(Journal Graphics) 1-800-825-5746
<b>48 Hours</b>	(CBS) 1-800-338-4847

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<b>Fox News Service</b>	(Freelance Video) 1-202-362-6535
<b>Frontline</b>	(PBS) 1-800-328-7271 (Journal Graphics) 1-800-825-5746
<b>Good Morning America</b>	(ABC) 1-212-456-7777 Written requests only
<b>Lehrer News Hour</b>	(PBS) 1-800-328-7271
<b>NBC News</b>	(NBC) 1-212-664-6213 Written requests only
<b>Nightline</b>	(ABC) 1-800-ABC-9420
<b>Nova</b>	(PBS) 1-800-328-7271
<b>Primetime Live</b>	(ABC) 1-800-913-3434
<b>60 Minutes</b>	(CBS) 1-800-848-3256
<b>20/20</b>	(ABC) 1-800-913-3434
<b>Turning Point</b>	(ABC) 1-800-913-3434

\* Public Affairs Video Archives at Purdue University records archives, and indexes all C-SPAN programs. Programs aired since 1987 can be obtained from: Public Affairs Video Archives, Purdue University, 1000 Liberal Arts & Education Bldg., West Lafayette, IN 47907-1000.

Phone 1-800-CSPAN98  
1-800-277-2698  
FAX: 1-317-423-4495

Another source for news programs is the Vanderbilt Television News Archive at Vanderbilt University, which began recording news programs in 1968. It makes tapes of "hard" news shows available usually within 24 hours of airing. These are available on loan only for a fee, and the typical loan period is 45 days. Additional information can be obtained through their e-mail site at [tvnews@tvnews.vanderbilt.edu](mailto:tvnews@tvnews.vanderbilt.edu) or by writing or calling:

Television News Archive  
Vanderbilt University  
110 21st Avenue South, Suite 704  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Phone: 615-322-2927  
Fax: 615-343-8250  
Internet: <http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/brochure.html>

**Addresses:**

ABC News  
P.O. Box 2284  
South Burlington, VT 05407

C-SPAN Viewer Services  
400 North Capitol Street, NW  
Suite 650  
Washington, DC 20001

CBS Video  
P.O. Box 2284  
South Burlington, VT 05407

Freelance Video  
4000 Albemarle Street, NW  
Suite 406  
Washington, DC 20016

Good Morning America  
147 Columbus Avenue  
New York, NY 10023

Journal Graphics  
1535 Grant Street  
Denver, CO 80203

NBC News Video Archive  
Room 902  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10112

PBS Video  
1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA 22314-1698