

Watergate

Logistical Arrangements

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Overview of the media coverage during the House hearings on Watergate.

Interview recorded July 1, 2008.

In that case, there were only four broadcast entities that were of a major size and shape, and that was the three networks and PBS. PBS was carrying it live. C-SPAN didn't exist. None of the cable networks existed. And the way they did their extra coverage was to build what amounted to . . . it looked like a small apartment on scaffolding outside the window, so they could put a camera facing back into a studio-sized camera with an operator over the shoulder of the chairman. And they had scaffolding in the room where all the other cameras were. And the place that they set up for reaction there was in the Rayburn horseshoe entrance, and half of that was cordoned off for both press conferences and interviews. Now, all of this was filmed. You didn't have any live coverage, except the coverage—live coverage—going out of the committee room itself, live to air. And I think there was one live radio group in the room. So you had specific positions for people to sit, and then you had the cameras for the live coverage, nothing right outside the room, and then this other area in Rayburn. The logistics of it worked.