

delegated to them power within prescribed limits to regulate certain industries.

When it created these agencies Congress established certain criteria and standards which are to govern the activities of those agencies.

In addition, Congress has from time to time established policies which are to be executed by those agencies.

This committee regularly reviews the activities of the Federal Communications Commission to ascertain the manner in which this agency is carrying out its delegated responsibilities and whether its actions are within the scope of its statutory purview.

Second, these hearings are intended as an initial step to thoroughly explore all the ramifications of subscription television. We want to learn specifically what subscription television encompasses, what purposes it serves, what problems it can create, and whether it is indeed necessary.

Then we must thoroughly explore the effects that the existence or nonexistence of subscription television will have upon existing UHF and VHF television.

How is subscription television affected by and how will it affect community antenna television systems? As everyone in this room knows, only 2 weeks ago the House after passage by this committee, passed the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967. Therefore, we are now committed to the expenditure of significant sums of money for the promotion of high quality, locally oriented programs.

How will the educational broadcasting system be affected by subscription television. Several of the witnesses I hope will be members of the Federal Communications Commission. I want to assure them at the outset that this committee does not intend to interrogate them respecting the particulars of the rulemaking proceeding which is presently under consideration by the Commission.

We want among other things to inform ourselves of the basic reasons underlying the need, if any, for a subscription television system, and whether the statutory authority for Commission action in this field is adequate.

We should like to ascertain in these hearings the extent to which authorization of subscription television on a nonexperimental basis will diminish the amount of spectrum space now available for other uses.

We should also like to find out if any such diminution is necessary in the public interest.

Congressman Dingell, a distinguished member of our full committee, has introduced a bill, H.R. 12435, to amend the Communications Act by providing that nothing therein shall be held to empower the Commission to authorize any person to engage in the broadcasting of pay television programs.

(The bill, H.R. 12435, follows:)

[H.R. 12435, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL To amend the Communications Act of 1934 so as to prohibit the granting of authority to broadcast pay television programs

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 3 of the Communications Act of*