

SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND POWER,
COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., pursuant to notice, in room 2322, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Torbert H. Macdonald (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. MACDONALD. The hearing will come to order.

This is a continuation of the hearing on subscription TV.

The first witness is our very distinguished colleague and member of our committee, John Dingell of Michigan.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I thank the committee for the privilege of being here this morning.

I am aware of the fact that the committee is busy with an abundance of labors and that this fine subcommittee, so ably chaired by the gentleman from Massachusetts, has many witnesses to be heard. For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I will not read my prepared statement but will submit it for the record and ask that it be inserted therein.

Mr. MACDONALD. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(Mr. Dingell's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN D. DINGELL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

One of the most challenging aspects of our work as members of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce is the legislative oversight of Federal regulatory agencies, including the Federal Communications Commission. In observing the work of the Federal Communications Commission, it appears the appropriate solutions to problems are in constant decline.

An example of this is the Commission's recent announcement concerning pay television. On July third of this year, the Subscription Television Committee consisting of Commissioner James J. Wadsworth as Chairman and his colleagues, Robert E. Lee and Kenneth A. Cox, recommended that a report and order authorizing non-experimental pay television be adopted by the Commission.

It is revealing that Commissioner Wadsworth, although Chairman of the Subscription Television Committee, saw fit to disassociate himself from his two colleagues in recommending the adoption of the report and order. In a rather curious footnote, he stated, "In agreeing to submission of this document to the full Commission, I do not mean to imply that I endorse adoption of it."

There are many important problem areas which urgently demand careful and deliberate consideration and action by the Commission. It should be remembered that the Commission is the Federal agency which has been assigned the responsibility and equipped with the expertise needed to analyze and resolve problems