

First of all, I resent the idea of using a clogged radio spectrum for subscription TV. We need it for business, we need it for radio, we need it for public safety. We need it for public television.

Now if something is going to be done it can be done in the wire end of the communications business. We can send these signals by wire and I have indicated to my good friend I have no objection to this.

Mr. OTTINGER. If I may interrupt the gentleman, that imposes a tremendous burden on the public, though. If we are going to have available this retrievable library system about which one reads and which I believe is in the very near future a possibility, why should one limit it to the cable system where a person has to pay a substantial charge per month to bring in the cable?

Why should not the public at large have available to it the ability to select any movie that they want that has been shown in the past 20 years? Would you exclude that?

Mr. DINGELL. Public acceptance first of all of wire TV has already been pretty well established in this country through the medium of CATV. I do not view it as being a hardship. I would point out and I think this committee should study the amount of spectrum that is taken up by one single television broadcast band. This is a much poorer use of a resource. Especially when many stand idle, or are to be converted to something as monstrous as pay TV.

I think you will find that on that one single band you can set up a tremendous number of bands for police, business, educational, maritime radio. These are important uses that are being grossly disregarded by the Commission.

The Commission has been promising me informally now for about 2 years that they were going to do something about this. I have seen no action.

Let me say to my good friend it may be that in the orderly course of events we are going to come to the point in this country where we can have some extra spectrum space after we have gone over and reviewed very carefully the total spectrum resource that we have in the Nation and after we have made appropriate allocations to space and defense and to business and to Government and to firefighting and to police and AM broadcasting, FM broadcasting, short wave, microwave, UHF-TV, VHF-TV, and to the public television, if at that time it becomes appropriate that we should make a silk stocking service available for persons of advanced means to retrieve old programs or to get brand new movie spectacles, spectacles for hire on subscription television, I believe the legislation I have introduced authorizes this committee to take that matter under consideration and to go forward. I believe, however, we have not yet arrived at that time.

I think that is probably where we disagree.

I think if we were to authorize subscription television at this time we would find, very shortly, that we would have a very peculiar phenomenon.

First of all, if it took, and I am not sure it will but there is a possibility that it will, we wind up with every television set in this country having a coin box on the side, I don't think you can justify that to your constituents.

I know very well I could not, certainly to the 30 percent that the FCC says will be denied it. Second of all, if this thing did take, I