

Mr. HARVEY. Mr. Preminger, I can remember when you were a film director.

Mr. PREMINGER. I still am a film director.

Mr. HARVEY. You are also film producer?

Mr. PREMINGER. Yes.

Mr. HARVEY. You have your own independent film company?

Mr. PREMINGER. Yes.

Mr. HARVEY. You produce films and you own films; is that correct?

Mr. PREMINGER. I direct them. I don't own them always alone. This film, the "Man With the Golden Arm," reverted to me after 7 years. The copyright is owned by me but for 7 years a company like United Artists in this case that financed it also had the right to distribution. This is where they made their money.

Mr. HARVEY. At the present time, you produce films and you do own some of them?

Mr. PREMINGER. Yes; when they come back. For instance, I produce films now for Paramount. They finance them. For a while, they have the exclusive right to distribute them.

Mr. HARVEY. For how long?

Mr. PREMINGER. For 7 years. Then they revert to me if they have made their money back. If they have not made their money back, they keep that right to distribute them until they get their money back.

Mr. HARVEY. Do you make any films at the present time that you own outright, yourself?

Mr. PREMINGER. No. I don't have that much money.

Mr. HARVEY. This is not a case where you would expect to sell films to subscription television, yourself?

Mr. PREMINGER. Yes.

Mr. HARVEY. Or is it a case where you expect to sell many films?

Mr. PREMINGER. I would say this: I think this selling of films to television is something that will pass. It is only necessary today because the networks are not capable of producing their own entertainment. I would rather produce shows for pay television, special shows, not to sell films. Even if I made less money, it would very much interest me to do a show for pay television which would not be on film or on commercial television.

Mr. HARVEY. You keep assuming you would make less money selling to subscription television, but I gather that this is not why the networks are opposed to subscription television. I gather they feel that subscription television will be able to pay more money for films. Is that not correct?

Mr. PREMINGER. Perhaps if they feel that, then they bring forward the most powerful argument for pay television; then it will be very successful.

Mr. HARVEY. You made a very persuasive argument for free enterprise a moment ago. Let us be frank about this. There is definitely a dollars-and-cents angle to this whole thing, is there not?

Mr. PREMINGER. It is possible that also films would bring more money on pay television. It is possible. I don't know. I hope so. I certainly would then choose to sell my film to pay television.

I am not charitable like the networks; I do not give anything away.

I do believe, besides, pay television would create opportunities and jobs for people who have nothing to sell to now.