

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. The point I am trying to make, Mr. Preminger, is that, regardless of the justification for the position that you are enunciating, the people of California did, by a substantial majority, vote against pay TV.

Mr. PREMINGER. To use a popular word, they were "brainwashed."

Mr. MACDONALD. That was in Michigan.

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. These are the same brainwashed, as you call them, to whom we must offer our candidacies next year. I represent San Diego, which is a coastal community; there are some children in my district that were found by the Office of Economic Opportunity never to have been to the beach. Now, they do have, I think, some programming on television—

Mr. PREMINGER. Don't they have to buy their sets? Are the sets there being given away by the networks?

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. Somehow there are television sets in these homes. I am just saying that there is a political problem here that I think the industry and its protagonists are going to have to take cognizance of.

Mr. PREMINGER. I believe, however, for instance, in California, if the other side had had the money or had insisted on equal time or whatever right they have, they would not have voted pay television out, if somebody had told them the truth, that pay television does not mean that they will not have what they have now; they will have more than they have now because the competition will improve the programming on the commercial television.

You don't believe really that NBC and ABC, two of the biggest companies in the United States, will close down their shops because of pay television? They will become stronger. They will work harder.

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MACDONALD. Mr. Brotzman.

Mr. BROTZMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I was sitting here, Mr. Preminger, thinking that if you ever got tired of what you are doing, you have a brilliant future in the political arena.

Mr. PREMINGER. I appear sometimes on television. I played the part on Batman for my children, Mr. Freeze.

Mr. BROTZMAN. Considering your fee for "The Man With the Golden Arm," I can certainly understand why you don't want to change to politics.

Mr. PREMINGER. I am old enough also, it will sound corny, to feel I want to do something which I really believe or say something which I really believe is in the public interest.

Because I am not in the political arena I can speak freely. I will not be very popular with my friends at NBC and CBS when they hear what I have said but I don't care. This is a luxury I can afford, myself. I feel it is also against all the things that this country stands for. It is a restriction in one field which just grew out of some misconception. It should never have happened.

It should always have been free. If it were free could we not even say to competitive pay television, "You must also serve one channel free"—would that not be better—that would really be free without the same programs, without advertising.

They would be shown, let us say, 6 months later. There would still be many people who would want to see them now like the people who