

We are presently scrutinizing in the Congress and in the country and in the press the method of carrying out and financing elections in the country. The Senate, you know, has a bill to provide for Federal revenues to pay for the campaigns of the President and Senators.

The House has under consideration, I think the subcommittee of your full committee, election reform laws: The cost of running campaigns certainly is in the minds of those who run for public office. I just want to ask you your thoughts and opinions on this approach.

You stated that television particularly was a highly profitable adventure. What would be your view on some requirement or regulation which required the television stations of the country to provide a certain amount of free time, a reasonable amount of free time, to candidates for public office?

Now one of the causes for the tremendous increase in the cost of campaigning has been the cost of campaigning on television. If the television stations of the country as a public service could provide a reasonable amount of free time to the candidates for public office—

Mr. CELLER. I tried to get, for example—and I say this as a preliminary to answering your question—the profits achieved by the networks and the stations. I was unable to get a breakdown; they would not give it to me. Maybe your committee could get it.

You will pardon me if I dwell a bit on it before I finally answer your question.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Yes, sir.

Mr. CELLER. I asked for the television pretax profits. In 1960 the wholly owned and operated stations of the three chains—ABC, NBC, and CBS—had profits of \$61.6 million. In 1966 it was \$108.1 million. This is before taxes.

In other words, it went from 33—the network profits were \$33 million in 1960 and the network profits were \$78 million in 1966, the three of them. I could not get a breakdown as to each one of the networks on that.

Mr. BROTZMAN. What was that last figure?

Mr. CELLER. \$78.7 million. If you add the network stations and the network profits themselves it goes in 1966 to \$187 million.

Now I want to preface that statement before I answer your question. In view of those profits I do not think there would be much skin off the back of these stations to allow Members of Congress or the Senate or the candidates in presidential elections to have a reasonable amount of time to show their wares, as it were, to express themselves on the issues in the campaign.

Mr. BROWN. Will the gentleman yield?

I wonder if we could put in the record the percentage of profit that that amounts to on the volume of business.

Mr. CELLER. I will put those in the record if you wish.

Mr. BROWN. Does that include the percentage that is to the total volume of business?

Mr. CELLER. These are expressions not in percentages; they are millions. I was wrong when I said percentage. There are millions of dollars.