

Mr. MACDONALD. To continue and not to sound like Johnny One Note, but ABC more or less controls Cassius Clay, don't they?

Mr. ERLICK. No, sir.

Mr. MACDONALD. Who is that sports announcer who has him on all the time, the rather obnoxious one?

Mr. ERLICK. I am not sure I know whom you mean.

Mr. MACDONALD. If you work for ABC, you know very well whom I mean.

Mr. ERLICK. Howard Cassell has interviewed Cassius Clay once or twice.

Mr. MACDONALD. Have you carried Clay's fights all the times he has fought over commercial TV?

Mr. ERLICK. We have on a number of occasions.

Mr. MACDONALD. Are you the network that blacked out Phoenix?

Mr. ERLICK. No, sir.

Mr. MACDONALD. Who did that?

Mr. ERLICK. I really could not say. We did not carry that fight. That question I knew came up and I did get some notes on it. I believe that fight originated in Madison Square Garden. I believe it was an RKO-owned event.

Mr. MACDONALD. They produced it but who carried it?

Mr. ERLICK. They bought the rights and I think they sold it to theater television and probably to certain local stations. I really don't know how it was disposed of. We did not carry it.

Mr. MACDONALD. No. 1, I would like to compliment ABC for doing the great job in sports it is doing; the Wide World of Sports is a great program. I am sure you lose a lot of money on that; you go to a lot of places and it costs a lot of money.

Mr. ERLICK. Fortunately, on Wide World, we do not; that is one of the events on which we manage to make a small profit.

Mr. MACDONALD. What is your viewpoint on this blackout system?

Mr. ERLICK. We are opposed to it. We would like to see it eliminated. We have no brief for blackout.

Mr. MACDONALD. I haven't talked to anyone who is for it. All I know, it happens.

Mr. ERLICK. It happens because it is a condition which is a part of the sale of the event. If you want the event, you must agree to that condition. The only alternative is not to buy the event. That is not a very happy choice.

Mr. MACDONALD. What if the three networks said they were not going to go on with this blackout?

Mr. ERLICK. If the three networks got together and made such an understanding, I think Mr. Ramsey Clark might have something to say about it.

Mr. MACDONALD. You just heard the chairman of the Judiciary Committee say just the opposite, in his judgment it would not happen. That also happens to be my judgment.

Mr. ERLICK. I would like very much to have some assurances from the Department of Justice that it would not happen.

Mr. MACDONALD. If it is a practice that the three networks don't like, have you asked for an advisory opinion about it?

Mr. ERLICK. No, sir; we have not.