

Mr. ERLICK. If the Congress and the Commission decide that this is a service which they want the public to be able to buy if they want to, then we are presented with a different set of facts than we are now and we would certainly take a look at it to determine whether it was in our interest to get into it or not. So far, that is not the case. The opposite is the case.

The resolutions that I am familiar with in the Congress and the bills which I believe have been introduced in the Congress would indicate to me that Congress does not believe pay-TV is in the public interest.

Mr. BROYHILL. In other words, it seems to me you are maintaining that if it is a profitable interest, you may want to get a part of it.

Mr. ERLICK. Yes, sir. If Congress directs the Commission, if Congress decides that pay-TV should be authorized in some form, because that is where I think the authority has to come from, and the Commission decides to follow through and pay-TV is established as a service, quite apart from how we might feel about it, what I am saying is that at that point and under those circumstances ABC will take a look at it as a business and decide whether we should be in it or not. I am not advocating that you do that. Do I make myself clear?

Mr. BROYHILL. I have no other questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MACDONALD. Mr. Van Deerlin.

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. I am indebted to Mr. Lishman for documentation of that matter we were discussing a few moments ago. This occurred during the 87th Congress in which Mr. Brotzman, Mr. Broyhill and I were not serving.

Mr. MACDONALD. And I voted against it.

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. It permits professional football, baseball, basketball and hockey leagues to enter into package television arrangements without fear of antitrust prosecution.

I presume, Mr. Erlick, from your testimony in regard to the loss of prime sports entertainment or the fear of a loss, that you are not entirely reassured by Mr. Wright's promises on behalf of the Zenith Corp. yesterday that they had no interest whatever in getting the Rose Bowl and the world's series.

Mr. ERLICK. Let me say this, Congressman Van Deerlin. I have great respect for Mr. Wright and his company and I am sure he was very sincere in what he said. I would not doubt that at all. But Mr. Wright is not going to be president of Zenith forever and I do not believe he can commit his future management or his future board. Nor can he commit the hundreds of other pay TV entrepreneurs who might be interested in acquiring rights across the country.

The mere fact that Mr. Wright stated what his present intention was does not give us any great comfort as far as others are concerned or even his own company in the future.

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. Do you have any offhand estimate as to what would be required in the way of an investment to take one of those prime attractions off the air for 2 years?

Mr. ERLICK. I was about to give a rough idea in the case of the New York Giants, and this is my own crystal balling. I can't vouch 100 percent for these figures but I think they are reasonably accurate.