

be accomplished *without any deprivation whatsoever to the poor*. Color television is a true supplement — available to those who can afford it without cost to those who cannot. Over-the-air pay television is totally different, for it benefits those who could afford it *only* at the expense of those who cannot.

59. It needs no elaboration to demonstrate that television is perhaps the most successful and effective mass media which the world has ever known. It has allowed the poorest citizen to obtain, in return for the mere purchase price of a television set, entertainment, information and news of a quality and quantity unobtainable in the past by the richest prince or king. It is, in truth, the poor man's theatre; the benefits which it has brought redound most strongly to those persons and groups in the lowest income level. It is strange, indeed, that the Committee can so easily ignore this group, and seek to deprive them of some of the benefits of which television is capable.

60. It is even stranger when it is recalled that, at this point in our history, the country as a whole is making the most determined efforts to bring to the lowest economic levels of our nation the full benefits of the American society as they are enjoyed by the more fortunate majority of our citizens. Federal and state governments have instituted far-reaching programs in urban development, open housing, work training, education, and a myriad of poverty programs so as to enrich the lives of the poor. The country has recognized the disparity in income which exists in our society, and has moved to correct it through massive Federal and state aid. It is anomalous that the Committee would now have the Commission turn precisely in the opposite direction, and deprive the very portion of the nation which needs it most of the fullest opportunity to take advantage of the free service. The Committee, in essence, has created its own anti-poverty program — its program is directed *against* the poor.