

Mr. LINDOW. We have set up, the Congress has set up, a system of free broadcasting in this country.

Mr. MACDONALD. Commercial; not free.

Mr. LINDOW. Commercial and educational, different categories of stations; yes, sir. It is one where the viewer does not have to pay a specific amount to view the program.

Mr. BROWN. Wherein the advertiser determines, along with the station or the network, what is going to go on the air and what selection that the public has. This Congress just got through passing public broadcasting legislation in order to provide with public funds an alternative to that choice because the Congress apparently felt that the existing "free" choice was not adequate. I happened not to support that piece of legislation.

But I think it is highly inconsistent for the Congress to take the taxpayers' money willingly and put it into public broadcasting, really free broadcasting except the taxpayer pays, and say that the public cannot, given the possibility of a system to do this, put some money in the meter and see what they would like to see themselves and cannot have a choice between the commercial broadcast and the public free taxpayer-supported Government broadcast.

Mr. LINDOW. Of course, Congress can and it has the power to change our system. This is well within the authority of Congress to do this if they want to.

Mr. BROWN. I am trying to figure out where the morality is in the other two systems and the immorality is in this system.

Mr. LINDOW. I think it is a basic policy question, the philosophy under which our system of broadcasting has operated. It is quite unique and distinctive and was the first in the world to operate on this basis. It has done extremely well for the public and for those who laid their money on the line.

Mr. BROWN. Let us get into a policy question here. Do you feel that any control should be exercised by the FCC over the program content of television?

Mr. LINDOW. No; I do not.

Mr. BROWN. I share that view and am concerned that we may get to the point where, because of what is involved, people are going to say we have to have some control over it.

It seems to me that one of the controls might be exercisable directly by the citizens rather than through their Government.

Mr. LINDOW. That has been the way it has been operating. Somebody said the other day, I guess it was Mr. Van Deerlin, about how he has to run for office every 2 years. I can sympathize with his problem. We have a vote taken as a television broadcaster every second because the viewer can either switch it on or turn it off. It is a big problem to do the job. People do exercise control over us, considerable control over us, believe me, by that device.

Mr. BROWN. Where do I vote to see the National Symphony Orchestra on television?

Mr. LINDOW. Channel 9 has been over a period of years carrying concerts of the National Symphony Orchestra, I believe.

Mr. BROWN. How about sponsors?

Mr. LINDOW. They have been sponsored.

Mr. BROWN. At what price?