

Mr. BROWN. You know, if your analogy were followed all the way through, we would not have an ballet or symphony in this country. We would be watching the same thing. This seems to me unfortunately the direction in which free TV may be headed. If the only criteria you use is the sale of your time that is available because you have this franchise from the Federal Communications Commission, to make money, the most money from the guy who wants to get the broadest audience, you wind up with the least common denominator.

I should not say the least common denominator, the broadest common denominator, because the least common denominator infers some very low taste which will offend enough people that they will not watch it and you will lose it at the other end.

Mr. LINDOW. This is not the case in free television. We have been putting on ballet. We have been putting on opera. We have been putting on concerts. We have been putting on programs of the highest standards. These are done in proportion. We try to have a balanced program schedule which is what the Federal Communications Commission has urged. We quite readily accept that as good business.

We have done this to the extent that we have gone far overboard. We have spent millions and millions of dollars on providing the type of programs which, if you measure it by the pure standards of their commercial attractiveness, would never get on. But they are done because we have this obligation which we freely accept and try to honor.

The record is full of this sort of thing, to say nothing of the public service activities that free television takes part in, to say nothing of the news and special events programs that we do. Believe me, sir, I can't sit quietly here and accept the suggestion that free television is not doing a job in that area. I believe, sir, that it is. I think we can do better and we would like to do better and we are going to try but we have to have money to do it.

Mr. BROWN. If you infer this as a flat statement, you are wrong. What I am concerned about is that we are trending in that direction in free radio and television because of the commercial problems involved. Now, my only suggestion in this area, my only question really to you is, why can't we have a combination of audience interest and commercial interest?

In any event, it is not free unless we go to a Government system and it is not free that way, either. There is a political interest.

Mr. LINDOW. If the Congress wants us to have that kind of system, you can have it.

Mr. BROWN. I understand. I am asking you as a representative of the group in whose behalf you are testifying what your feeling about it is. I know Congress can do it if it wants to.

Mr. LINDOW. Because I think you would be depriving a great many people of the opportunity that they now have. I don't think that that is right in terms of the system that we operate under.

Mr. BROWN. The assumption being that everybody, all commercial broadcasters, would go to the pay TV system.

Mr. LINDOW. I think that would be a very unfortunate decision for the American people.

Mr. BROWN. And also broadcast 100 percent of the time on pay TV. Is that your assumption?