

Mr. FIRESTONE. On the over-the-air system, it depends on whether they had the ability to unscramble the signal. I am not a technical expert on the subscription television operation.

Mr. BROWN. If they pay a dollar and a half for the program, they have the right to unscramble it.

Mr. FIRESTONE. That is right, if they take the decoder box. You cannot prevent that.

What I am concerned about at this point in the development of subscription television is the Dingell proposal which would prohibit over-the-air subscription, period. This would then open up the door to widespread wire use of subscription television on an intrastate basis. That would not provide a true test of the viability of the service.

Mr. BROWN. My question is, Can you prohibit by regulation the use of that dollar and a half right to view the screen from being transferred into either a wire system of some kind to spread to other sets or from bringing an audience in to watch?

Mr. FIRESTONE. No, because you are not treating the subscription service as a common carrier. They could stop it by merely refusing to lease their decoder box or to give their decoder box to the local bar and grill.

Mr. MACDONALD. Thank you very much, Mr. Firestone.

Mr. FIRESTONE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MACDONALD. The next witness is Mr. Robert Hall, on behalf of Skiatron Electronics & Television Corp. We are glad to have you, Mr. Hall.

I have known you under different circumstances. You represented a great university from Connecticut. It has been my pleasure to know you for many years. I am delighted to have you here this morning as I am sure all members of the committee are.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT HALL, SKIATRON ELECTRONICS & TELEVISION CORP.

Mr. HALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity of being here and having this chance to give my feelings and views on the proposal, particularly as it relates to sports.

For the record, my name is Robert Hall, of New Haven, Conn. I am appearing on behalf of Skiatron Electronics & Television Corp. I believe I am specifically qualified as an expert on sports in general and on football in particular and the relation to the public and to television.

I might also add that I am heavily involved in presenting live entertainment with leading stars in theatrical offerings, including both variety and musical shows.

I was former chairman of the board of athletic control and director of athletics at Yale University, chairman of the NCAA Television Committee representing well over 400 football playing institutions. I was the principal architect of the first NCAA restricted or controlled football program for television and I am sorry to admit, Mr. Chairman, that among my sins is the blackout which I also recommended to the late Bert Bell, commissioner of the National Football League and which was adopted in their plan.