

this field, but we shall undertake our own analyses and arrive at our own conclusions as we move toward our first programming efforts.

At the start, we shall deal with the basic matters of organization of the Corporation, and begin by laying a pattern for our first year's operations with modest objectives that can reasonably be met.

Of first priority will be recruiting a staff of the highest quality and experience. In this process, the enactment of this legislation by the Congress would be a vote of confidence in the Corporation and would increase the Corporation's ability to obtain the kind of men we will need on a long-term basis. It would undoubtedly also assist our efforts to obtain financial support from the private sector.

Therefore, I urge that your committee approve the pending bill. I can assure you that we will spend carefully and will not build up a staff out of proportion to our needs. As I have said, as the hearings emphasized, and as the quality of men on this Board guarantees, the Corporation will be independent. By the same token, however, we look forward to working closely with the Congress and with your committee and your subcommittee.

I hope and expect that the way we organize and operate this Corporation in its initial stages will give you confidence in what we will do in the future. Regardless of how the long-term financing is worked out, I have no doubt that the Corporation must continue by its activities and by its successful operation to persuade the Congress that this unique new instrument is serving the great purposes of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967.

Mr. Chairman, I very much regret not being personally present today to give you my views on the pending bill. I urge its approval so that we may go forward with the beginnings of this worthwhile venture.

This Corporation, properly operated, can give real meaning and substance to the American dream; improperly done, it is without value. I commit to you for this effort the very best that I and my distinguished colleagues can give.

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

Do you have comments of your own that you would like to put forth at this time?

Mr. HUGHES. One very important comment, Mr. Chairman, which is timely.

As of this moment, I believe, the Corporation is now in being. The papers were filed this morning and we are informed that the charter has just been granted. So as of this very moment, in no more appropriate a place to make the announcement, than here, we are now a body corporate and legally in existence.

Mr. MACDONALD. I have just one question. I am not quite sure why the Board hasn't met up until this time. Would you give us some information about that?

Mr. HUGHES. Yes. I would say, Mr. Chairman, that we had an informal meeting following the hearings before the Senate Committee on Confirmation. At that time, one step was taken. Dr. Killian was designated as Acting Vice Chairman, pending formal incorporation.

We did have discussions, informally, again as to future meetings, a possible course of action, staffing. So we have had the single meeting hoping that the Chairman would be back on his feet. Regrettably, his condition turned the other way and surgery followed.

Mr. MACDONALD. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Kornegay?

Mr. KORNEGAY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Hughes, it is nice to see you here today.

So that I would know and perhaps the House would know when we get this bill over on the floor, a little bit about what has transpired between the time the law was enacted in November of last year and the present time, I am sure somebody will ask the question, will you fill us in and tell us what has been done in addition to your state-