

argument that public broadcasting is a much more generalized good than it is an explicit good for the users and the owners of the receiving equipment, nevertheless, I think that it is a fair enough option and alternative to be very seriously considered, which we proposed to do in talking with you and with the Corporation.

Mr. MACDONALD. Then if I can paraphrase your words, that is why you used the word "appropriate committees," because you think maybe this should be before the Ways and Means Committee and not this committee?

Mr. CAREY. I think it would be before this committee first of all, Mr. Chairman, but I think if it came to a hard proposal, an explicit proposal, for such a tax, it could involve another part of the Congress. But, again, my colleague from the Treasury Department probably has his own views on that matter.

Mr. MACDONALD. I would like to hear him on this point.

Mr. BRANNAN. On the point of the committees?

Mr. MACDONALD. Yes, the jurisdiction.

Mr. BRANNAN. I make the point that this is merely a matter of the rules of the House on which we can only speculate on possible outcomes. In a similar situation, in highway trust fund financing, the Ways and Means Committee does not have jurisdiction over the highway decisions themselves, but under the rules of the House, it has been felt proper in the past to have them take action on the tax part of highway bills.

Mr. Boyd simply recognized that the House might come up with a decision that the Ways and Means Committee might deal with the tax portion of any bill that might be included in it.

Mr. MACDONALD. You use the word "might." Are you going to recommend that this be done?

Mr. BRANNAN. I suspect that we would try to anticipate what the House would do with the bill, if we were simply talking about which committee to talk with before we sent a message, if that was the kind of question.

Mr. STAGGERS. Will you yield for a question?

Mr. MACDONALD. Yes.

Mr. STAGGERS. I am sure both of you gentlemen are for this bill.

Mr. CAREY. Yes, sir.

Mr. STAGGERS. I would think your presentation this morning would indicate you are not trying to get it by this committee very well. If you are trying to get some "no" votes for it, you are going down the right road, when you are talking about taking away jurisdiction. It will have enough of a rough road now.

Mr. CAREY. I don't think it is our prerogative to take jurisdiction away from anybody.

Mr. STAGGERS. I think the administration better do a little more work and send some different testimony up here if they want this bill.

Mr. CAREY. The administration very much wants the bill.

Mr. STAGGERS. Then they better change their tactics. That is all.

Mr. MACDONALD. On page 2 of your very fine statement, I didn't really understand the language that says "minimize those aspects of the usual Federal budgeting and appropriations cycle which might restrict the free production of programs for this public media."

I can read the English language, but I don't know what that means. Would you explain it?