

I did my best to explain the story. But I think this kind of mood is present, not only in Wisconsin but elsewhere, and this applies not only to title I, which I am concerned with in this story, but also to title II and the establishment of the corporation.

We have lost some momentum, and I think many of you gentlemen understand this. It was certainly the intent of the committee in its report—and I shall not take the time to go back and quote your own report—that all these matters of financing and so on, while not being set aside with no consideration, should be set aside until, appropriately, once the corporation is established and is in being, and can show some track record, it could be brought into focus.

The only other point I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, is that it seems to me, as a representative of educational radio and educational television broadcasters, that somewhere, at least in this morning's discussion which I have heard, we have somehow missed a point.

There has been, quite properly, a concern over the moneys appropriated for the purposes of this act and the problems which the Congress finds itself faced with in terms of Vietnam, the cities, gold, and all of the rest of the problems besetting our country. I think the fundamental point which most of us would wish to make to you gentlemen is that a democracy, which is our form of government, does not act effectively unless its citizens understand what these issues are about.

Mr. MACDONALD. Sir, before we get into that, and I think we have been around the bush several times, to quote Mr. Brown, if you would just read the bill, the bill before us is not the Public Broadcasting Act. It merely states that we strike out 1968 and insert 1969.

So, all of these philosophical discussions about whether this bill is a good bill or a bad bill, or what is in the bill, all of that, seems irrelevant to me.

I hope you will confine your remarks, as I tried to have the members from Budget, Treasury, and HEW, to that, it would be helpful. Nothing else is before us. We have already passed the bill.

Mr. ROBERTSON. I couldn't agree with you more, Mr. Chairman. It is now the law of the land. The sole issue is whether 1968 gets changed to 1969.

Mr. MACDONALD. Right.

Mr. ROBERTSON. I would only add a sentence or two to say that I would like to strongly second or emphasize two points that Mr. Hughes, from the corporation, made.

That is, that the corporation now being in being will be very much affected by the rapid action of this committee and of both Houses of Congress, not only in passing this bill that is before you, but the subsequent appropriations for the corporation in two ways.

Congressman Springer mentioned earlier the importance of the makeup of the board. That has been done, I think, to most peoples' satisfaction.

The next most important thing is the selection of staff. We all know that when we try to find excellent people to take responsible positions, whether they are really interested in doing this or not is, in part, a matter of what dollars are available, what confidence is put into this.