

every couple of years and put somebody else in based upon some type of survey of the audience?

Mr. CORPORON. I am not suggesting that at all. I think that is an FCC function. I am suggesting that the constituency which I speak of, which in this case are the viewers, the audience, is the best judge, a better judge, than the FCC.

I submit to you that the viewers of a TV station and the listeners of a radio station do exert considerable pressure upon a broadcaster in any given market.

I think if a broadcaster month after month is unfair or incomplete, I think if he becomes very irresponsible, I think the public is smart enough to recognize this. I think the American public, by and large, and there are exceptions, has the intelligence to make a decision whether or not a particular station is performing fairly.

Mr. ADAMS. Suppose they never hear the other side during this period of time, and he is the only one on, which is what we have been discussing, several of us here, that he is the one who was allocated this channel, and he is unfair? How do they make a judgment on this?

The second thing is what do they do about it, unless they have the FCC pull the license?

Mr. CORPORON. It is a good question, but I think the answer is to look at the various markets. You simply do not find, except in rare instances in small cities, a monopoly situation with the broadcaster. You have the force, the counterplay, of one broadcaster versus another.

The subject was brought up of newspaper ownership of broadcasting stations. This is true. This occurs in many markets.

On the other hand, in a market where a newspaper owns a TV station, there is another TV station in most instances. There are one-market stations, I am aware, but there are very few of them.

So, taken as a whole, you have one station playing off against the other. If you find one station becoming so irresponsible that under the Fairness Doctrine or a strict interpretation of fairness that the FCC would move in and would strike down—

Mr. ADAMS. Not strike down, just put on the other side.

Mr. CORPORON. Senator, OK. I think you would find that the opposing broadcaster in that market would probably move to exploit the situation. I have seen situations where newspapers, radio stations, TV stations, have lost their balance and have gone overboard in support of an issue or a candidate. I have seen this remedied because other stations would move in and make an effort to be fair, not to be extreme on the other side but to be fair, I think the public recognizes this.

Mr. ADAMS. Then your viewpoint could lead to a situation that if a station is popular and puts on the viewpoint that the majority of its viewers wants to see, and if we would carry this over into the news area it could be awful. I think many of the television stations have a problem with now of copying another so if everybody likes westerns then everybody puts on westerns; if everybody likes spies they put on spies; if everybody likes sophisticated spies, they put on sophisticated spies.