

For me, as I said yesterday, the direction we should go in this field is one of the most important questions that will come before this Congress and maybe many Congresses.

We will recess until 1:30 this afternoon.

(Whereupon, at 12:15 p.m. the special subcommittee recessed to reconvene at 1:30 p.m. the same day.)

AFTER RECESS

(The special subcommittee reconvened at 1:30 p.m., Hon. Paul G. Rogers presiding.)

Mr. ROGERS. The subcommittee will come to order, please.

Would you proceed, Dean Barrow?

Dean BARROW. Thank you, Chairman Rogers.

The papers for this afternoon, as mentioned this morning, are on the same subject matter which we had this morning.

The first paper is to be presented by Mr. Jay Crouse, who is president of the RTNDA.

PAPER NO. 7—JAY CROUSE: THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE: ITS USE AND IMPLICATION

Mr. CROUSE. I am Jay Crouse, director of news for WHAS, Inc., Louisville, Ky. I am president of the Radio Television News Directors Association, an organization of more than 1,000 members throughout the United States and Canada.

Our vice president and president-elect is Eddie Barker, director of news for KRLD in Dallas, Tex., and our executive secretary is Rob Downey, WKAR, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.

The story is told of the little old New England grandmother who had a good word even for the devil, saying, "At least, he's industrious." In that spirit let me express the hope that some good may come out of the debate over what's called the Fairness Doctrine.

It's certainly worth the reams of copy and hours of debate if we finally arrive at the point where broadcast journalism is granted its majority.

The Fairness Doctrine seeks to assure that controversial issues receive an airing consistent with the principles of a free society. I maintain that the Fairness Doctrine stifles discussion of controversial issues over the airwaves owned by the people.

As broadcasters we are licensed in order that we may serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The Fairness Doctrine precludes effective service of the interest and necessity of the public.

Nowhere in the Federal Communications Act is the Federal Communications Commission granted the authority or the power to determine standards of fairness for its licensees. Moreover, the FCC cannot substitute its own definition of journalistic freedom as a standard to replace the first amendment.

As you may know, RTNDA has a case pending in the U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, against the Fairness Doctrine. We are seeking to have reviewed and set aside a final order of the FCC adopted July 5, 1967.