

HARLEY O. STAGGERS
2D DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

CHAIRMAN:
COMMITTEE ON
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN
COMMERCE

HOME ADDRESS:
KEYSER, WEST VIRGINIA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 13, 1972

Mr. Mark Evans
Vice President
Metromedia, Inc.
5151 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mark:

Thank you very much for your letter of recent date enclosing copy of your communication sent to all Metromedia Station Managers.

Mark, words cannot express my deep appreciation for your taking the time to write me. I am so grateful for your gracious comments in my behalf and sincerely hope I shall continue to merit your good words and confidence.

Looking forward to seeing you again at the first opportunity, and with kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS

MM METROMEDIA, INC.
5151 WISCONSIN AVE., N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20016
TEL: 202-244-5151

Thank you Mark

MARK EVANS/VICE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MAY 25 1972

May 23, 1972

The Honorable Harley Staggers
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Friend:

I don't often write fan letters. However, I am compelled on this occasion to express my admiration and sincere respect to you for the kindly, informal yet firm manner in which you conducted a hearing. I only regret that all broadcasters in the country could not have been present in order to realize your sincerity and dedication to helping the industry do a better job.

There's no doubt in my mind that the real people who stage the news are the "hell raisers" who notify stations of the time and place for their monkeyshines. They turn it on for the cameras and turn it off when the cameras leave. Television's greatest dereliction, in my estimation, is being enticed into covering the activities of this unsavory slice of humanity.

I am enclosing a copy of the letter I am sending to all of our news departments as a result of attending your hearing.

I have just seen your letter to Vince Wazilewski confirming what you had told me some weeks ago that you would schedule hearings early in the coming year.

Most sincerely and respectfully,

Mark

Mark

ME/jm

Memorandum

DATE: May 23, 1972

TO: All Station Managers

FROM: Mark Evans

SUBJECT: Commerce Committee Hearings - News Broadcasts

I have just attended hearings conducted by the Honorable Harley Staggers, Chairman of the Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives. My main regret is that each of you could not have been present to hear the sincere appeal of this dedicated public servant for vigilance in the important job of reporting the news.

I have discussed this matter with network representatives who don't think it could happen to their stations, but there are far too many instances where reporters stage news events. It only has to happen once before a station's reliability can be truly injured, if not destroyed. There is frequently a desire on the part of a reporter or a cameraman, who may arrive late or whose equipment might have malfunctioned, to ask for a repeat of an event which has already taken place. It seems to me if this happens, there should be an admission of that fact if the event is restaged.

Our industry is under constant attack, our detractors are happy to emphasize indiscretions, and we simply can't afford to take any chances. I appeal to you individually to keep very close tabs on any possibilities of these unethical practices. I believe it is vitally important that you constantly remind news directors as well as those on the firingline as reporters how serious a matter this is.

I believe Chairman Staggers is most sincere when he explains his only goal in having these hearings is to help us all be more reliable broadcasters. Today he emphasized that in his mind television has the finest opportunity of doing good of any facet of today's society. I, for one, am grateful there are men of his calibre who care enough to keep us on our toes.

cc: Messrs. Kluge, Krivin, Duncan.

