

TELEVISION FILM CLIP BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) ON TOLL TV,
JANUARY 27, 1958.

There is one extremely important reason why it is unwise for the Federal Communications Commission to proceed with its plan to authorize toll television on a trial basis. The initial investment for such a system is very high. The decoding apparatus that must be attached to every receiving set will cost from \$45 to \$100 per unit. As you can see, once toll television is started it cannot be stopped without a lot of money going down the drain.

There are about 47 million television sets in operation in the United States today. If there is any reason at all to believe that the owners of these sets are to be assessed substantial sums for continued service, Congress has a responsibility to move to protect the public. Because the ultimate result of competition between pay television and free television may be the destruction of our free television system. I have introduced a resolution with the aim that no toll television experiments be carried on until Congress has had time to study this question thoroughly.

A number of other Senators joined me ~~as~~
as cosponsors.

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