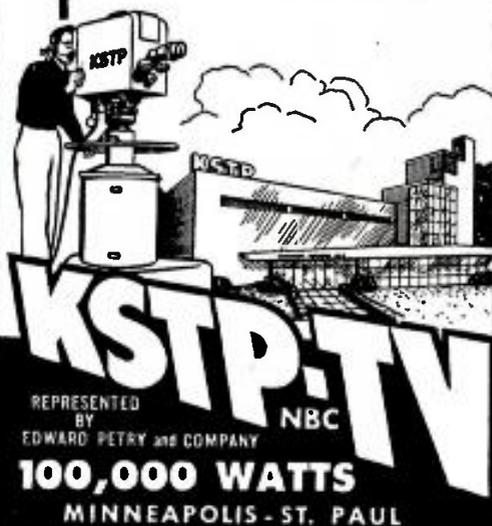


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IN REVIEW

**DECISION!**

Network: ABC Radio  
Time: Mon., 9:30-10 p.m. EST  
Producer-Director: Sherman H. Dryer  
Writer: Peter Barry  
Musical Director: Milton Cassel  
Narrator: Charles Irving  
Cast: Ivor Francis, Ross Martin, Bill Griffiths, Gilbert Mack, Frank Beherns, Court Benson  
Produced by ABC in cooperation with the Institute For Democratic Education

A NEW dramatic radio series titled *Decision!* made its bow last Monday on ABC Radio under the auspices of that network, Sherman H. Dryer, an independent producer, and the Institute for Democratic Education. If the initial broadcast in the 13-week public service series was indicative of the sort of program that will follow, listeners are in for a two-fold radio treat. *Decision!* is both informative and entertaining—a combination that is often strived for but seldom realized in a dramatic framework.

The over-all theme of the series deals with man's struggle to shape his own destiny by making his own decisions. In illustrating this central idea, the first broadcast dramatized a story of pre-war days and the war itself between Athens, the world's first democracy, and Sparta, a militaristic state which ultimately defeated it. The analogy between this era in history and the atmosphere and circumstances which contributed to Sparta's victory over the Athenians, and our generation's fear of the threat of Communism was sharply and effectively drawn.

One particular factor accounted for the effectiveness of *Decision's* initial broadcast. Peter Barry, who wrote the script, knows how to juggle the English language. There is a vast difference between using words simply to communicate an idea and using them to stimulate ideas the listener may have. It is the latter knack that makes for outstanding imaginative radio drama. Mr. Barry is obviously familiar with both techniques and uses them equally well. The cast turned out a thoroughly polished half-hour show. Orchestration, tailor-made for the script, also contributed greatly to the show's success.

In the past the Institute for Democratic Education has produced and distributed programs of this type for local presentation, but this series is the first to be heard on a network. As in the past, the Institute is sticking to a formula of making its point, not by sermonizing, but through clear story-telling.

\* \* \*

**THE JOE PALOOKA STORY**

Producer and Distributor: Guild Films Co.  
Director-Producer: Richard Bare  
Writers: Various  
In cast: Joe Kirkwood, Cathy Downs, Sid Tomack, "Slapsy Maxie" Rosenbloom, others

GUILD FILMS Co.'s production of *The Joe Palooka Story* is a half-hour telefilm sufficiently broad in its appeal to provide enjoyment for the entire family. Though the plots are not particularly original, they are straightforward and uncomplicated. The story line unravels easily, spiced with an appropriate dash of humor and sentiment.

It approximates in outlook the well-known comic strip by Ham Fisher in which Joe Palooka emerges as the honest, clean-living All-American man. It should find a tailor-made viewing audience from those who have enjoyed the newspaper strip.

The producers wisely have aimed for a change of pace in the various episodes. This

review considered *Knobby's Knockout* and *Neutral Corner*, which, though projecting Mr. Palooka in his role of everybody's wonderful big brother, demonstrated diverse appeals. The former relied on humor, with the entire Palooka entourage caught up in the tinsel of Hollywood film-making. The latter dwelt on sentiment, with a boxing protegee of Mr. Palooka ending his career because of an injury but "rehabilitating" himself, through the efforts of Mr. Palooka, as boxing instructor for a boys' club.

The casting is excellent. Joe Kirkwood, as Joe Palooka, exudes the proper amount of modesty and portrays the role of a boxer with a big heart in believable fashion. "Slapsie Maxie" Rosenbloom provides comic relief, though the lines sometimes are not too funny. Sid Tomack is a highly competent Knobby Walsh, and Miss Downs turns in an excellent performance as Mrs. Palooka.

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**RESOURCES FOR FREEDOM**

Network: CBS-TV  
Time: Sun.: Jan. 10, 3-4 p.m. EST  
Narrator: Edward R. Murrow  
Participants: The five members of the Presidential Commission: Chairman, William S. Paley, chairman of the board of CBS; George R. Brown, Texas engineer and industrialist; Arthur H.unker, president, Climax Molybdenum Co.; Eric Hodgins, member of the board of editors of Fortune magazine; Dr. Edward S. Mason, dean of the Graduate School of Public Administration at Harvard U. Also many others prominent in industry, finance and science.  
Producer: Roy Lockwood  
Directors: James B. Cahoon, David Moore  
Writer: Stanley Silverman  
Editorial Consultant: Eric Hodgins  
Production Editors: Sidney Katz, Ralph Rosenblum

AS TIMELY and ambitious a current events telecast as has been presented on tv recently was seen Jan. 11 when CBS-TV gave its Sunday afternoon audience a glimpse at the natural resources picture of the United States and the free world in a special events feature titled *Resources for Freedom*. The hour-long documentary was an adaptation of a five-volume report of the President's Materials Policy Commission which investigated the supply and demand problem in America and abroad in terms of the past, present and particularly the future.

A creditable job was done by CBS-TV in translating this detailed and exhaustive study into a telecast that the layman might understand. Wisely enough, Edward R. Murrow was chosen to narrate the production. His authoritative reportorial style was a decided asset to a program which could so easily have bogged down under the weight of its material had a less capable commentator handled the assignment.

In summarizing the United States' position in coming years in such vital areas as coal, iron, copper, lumber, water and oil, CBS-TV sent out its reporters and camera crews to get first-hand information from people involved in resources production. These numerous film segments, together with commentary supplied by Mr. Murrow and members of the material policy group who compiled the *Resources for Freedom* report, were tightly edited into an interesting and informative telecast. Additionally, opinions of leaders in government and industry were used to round out and supplement reports given by those who worked on the Materials Policy Commission.

The telecast was given a simple production. It pretended to do nothing but present the facts, but it did that most successfully.