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Edward R. Murrow once said of television: "This instrument can teach, it can illuminate; yes, it can even inspire. But it can do so only to the extent that humans are determined to use it to those ends. Otherwise, it is merely lights and wires in a box."

John W. Macy, Jr. is one of those humans determined to use broadcasting to teach and illuminate and even inspire. His Gaither Lectures cover an exceedingly important chapter in the history of American broadcasting. For many reasons, I find it a special honor to have been asked to write a foreword to their publication. First, John and I are old friends who served together in the Kennedy Administration. Second, we have worked together in public broadcasting in my role as chairman of WTTW, the public television station in Chicago. Finally, while I was not privileged to know Rowan Gaither, I later followed in his path at the Rand Corporation; the lectures bearing his name are of exceptional distinction.

As I write these words, we are engaged in a crisis in public broadcasting. Just a week ago, as a representative of the Public Broadcasting Service, I attended meetings in Washington with John Macy's successor at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Our discussions failed to

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reach an agreement on working relationships between the Corporation and the local stations—and the fundamental issues discussed in these lectures remain unresolved.

It is astonishing and discouraging that our country has not yet found a way to develop a first-class noncommercial broadcasting service. When one travels to Europe or to Japan, it is apparent that other nations are decades ahead of us in harnessing the potential of broadcasting with non-commercial values. We started late in the United States, and we still have a long way to go to match the achievements of other systems.

Yet, in reading the lectures, I have reflected about our steady progress in the last decade. When I went to the FCC in 1961, I was amazed to find that there was no public television station in New York, or Los Angeles, or Philadelphia, or Washington, or Baltimore, or Cleveland, or many other large cities. There was no network connecting the few existing stations, and the audience was painfully small. There was no "Sesame Street," no "Electric Company," no "Book Beat," no "Firing Line." Today, although we have not progressed far enough, or fast enough, we do have millions of viewers who care deeply about public broadcasting. We have more than two hundred stations and we do have a network. Despite present obstacles, public broadcasting is destined to grow and prosper and enrich our lives.

For carrying on the good fight in an effective, straightforward, and highly principled way, John Macy merits the respect and thanks of a generation of Americans who have benefited and will benefit from his work. Under John's leadership, public broadcasting remained nonpolitical and independent. He did irrigate the wasteland, and the seeds left by that irrigation left roots which will grow,

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flourish, and prevail. It is essential that others now take up John Macy's high standard if we are to fulfill the vision of E. B. White expressed in his wise words about television:

Noncommercial television should address itself to the ideal of excellence, not the idea of acceptability—which is what keeps commercial television from climbing the staircase. I think television should be the visual counterpart of the literary essay, should arouse our dreams, satisfy our hunger for beauty, take us on journeys, enable us to participate in events, present great drama and music, explore the sea and the sky and the woods and the hills. It should be our Lyceum, our Chautauqua, our Minsky's, and our Camelot. It should restate and clarify the social dilemma and the political pickle. Once in a while it does, and you get a quick glimpse of its potential.

Newton N. Minow