Sight & Sound By Ernest Kreiling

HOLLYWOOD — The less-ening of Madison Avenue influence over TV programming, according to Weekly Variety, "has cut down the quality that once prevailed."

The adm en complain that premaining in a poss-removed much of the creative dia personal to the creative to the several years ago, a fact I've cause most people today find the regular weekly programs infinitely superior to those several years ago, a fact I've credited to the dilution of the control apponsors and add agentic people for the dilution of the control apponsors and add agentic people for the dilution of the control apponsors and add agentic people for the dilution of the control apponsors and add agentic people for the dilution of the control apponsors and add agentic people for the dilution of the control apponsors and add agentic people for the dilution of the control apponsors and add agentic people for the dilution of the control apponsors and add agentic people for the dilution of the control apponsors and add agentic people for the dilution of the control apponsors and add agentic people for the people control sponsors and ad agencies once exerted over radio and over TV in its earlier

The soaring costs of producing programs has virtually done away with the one-sponsor program. There are a few around, to be sure, such as the DuPont Show of the Week, Kraft's Perry Como, and others. But for the most part costs are too high for one spor to underwrite complete programs every week.

THE RESULT has been the "participating" program in which spot announcements are sold to a variety of non-con-flicting sponsors. Consequently no one sponsor has the leverage over the producers and writers to toy with the scripts in the interest of catering to the sponsor's whims.

Where there has been an where there has been an improvement in the general level of TV programming and where we can expect continued improvement in the future can be traced largely to the fact that the salesmen don't control the industry.

Individual TV stations are licensed by the federal government for periods of up to three years, and they are obli-gated to program in the pub-lic's "interest, convenience and necessity." Further, they are subject to the public's wishes and viewing habits and can they competitive only by satisstay competitive only by satisfying much of the public much of the time.

IN SHORT, there are several basic responsibilities the stations, and through them

stations, and through them
the networks, must meet.

Sponsors, and especially
their advertising agencies, enter the TV scene with but one
goal in mind — to sell products. No other consideration
can affect their judgment, so their concern isn't for the quality of the program or its effect on the public. An agen-cy which handles millions of cy which handles millions of dollars of a soap company's advertising will keep that ac-count solely on the basis of sales records. By definition these salesmen are the least qualified to determine what the public will see and when.

This is not to say that the stations and networks are all starry-eyed idealists, but the scope of their responsibility at least forces some consideration of factors other than sales

I DON'T KNOW what kind of creativity and excitement Variety was referring to that lent quality to TV. If it was the fixed quiz programs and the typical aspirin and deodor-ant commercial, I'd hate to see the hucksters regain any of their former control. Our commercially supported sys-tem of broadcasting is a good one, but only as long as the system isn't subverted to the sole purpose of selling products at the expense of balance, variety and good taste.

There's room for improve-ment in all of those qualities, only as long as the salesmen don't control programming. will co

KNXT, CHANNEL 2, a CBS owned and operated station, cannot be accused of timorousness in presenting adult fare on TV in prime time. The recent Burden of Shame—The

David E. Manteufel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter O. Man-teufel of 24616 Senator Ave., Harbor City, completed re-Harbor City, completed re-cruit training, Aug. 31, at the Naval Training Center, San



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