



House of Lords  
Tel: 0171 219 5412

9th. August 1997

[REDACTED]  
Head of General Broadcasting Policy Branch,  
Room 413,  
Department of National Heritage,  
2-4 Cockspur Street,  
London  
SW1Y 5DH.

Dear [REDACTED]

You will know of my personal involvement in the subject of T.V. Listed Events. I am pleased that a consideration is now taking place as provided for in the Broadcasting Act 1996.

I can confirm that there is still very considerable interest and concern about these matters in the House of Lords and that I intend to pursue them again when these matters are before the House.

My opinion is that the List should not be overlong lest it loses its force but that it does need to be extended. The broad majority of people have a right to view sport of national importance on terrestrial television. Unfortunately the Sports Bodies have gone 'Marketing Mad' and cannot be relied upon to protect the public. Sky T.V. and Pay T.V. represent a Monopoly Financial control of Sports viewing. Parliament is right to act to protect the public, especially the elderly personel viewers and young people for whom the inspirational effect of viewing top quality sport in their own homes is essential for the future prospects of British Sport.

With these thoughts in mind, I would support as additional to the list, the following:-

Football:- Semi-finals and Finals of World Cup and European Championships.

Rugby Union :- Five National championship and World Cup.

Golf:- Ryder Cup and British Open Championship.

Athletics:- World, European and Commonwealth Games.

Cricket:- World Cup Final.

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Rugby League:- Challenge Cup Final.

I trust that these observations are of interest to you.

Yours sincerely,

*Prudla A. Lester Sec.*

Dictated by Lord Howell of Aston Manor.

Copy sent to. Michael Hastings.  
BBC Head of Public Affairs.