Online Appendix to the Paper: Media Competition and News Diets

Charles Angelucci *1 , Julia Cagé $^{\dagger 2}$, and Michael Sinkinson $^{\ddagger 3}$

¹Columbia University ²Sciences Po Paris and CEPR ³Yale University and NBER

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^{*}Columbia University (ca2630 [at] columbia [dot] edu).

[†]Sciences Po Paris (julia [dot] cage [at] sciencespo [dot] fr).

 $^{^{\}ddagger}$ Yale University (michael [dot] sinkinson [at] yale [dot] edu).

A Details on the Rollout of Television

The FCC was created by the Communications Act of 1934. This Act empowered the FCC to issue broadcasting licenses "as public convenience, interest, and necessity requires." Starting in 1945, the FCC relied on comparative hearings when there were multiple applicants for a broadcast license (in practice, early applicants were often granted licenses without hearings). To determine which applicant was best qualified to hold the license, the FCC relied at the time (a number of changes were then introduced in 1965) five criteria: (i) the local residency of the owners; (ii) the integration of ownership and management; (iii) the active participation by applicants in civic affairs; (iv) the broad diversification of background and interests; and (v) the past broadcast experience. The FCC also considered the diversification of control.

The development of television followed the growing use of radios in the 1930's; with television technology evolving directly from radio technology. As reported in Starr (1982), television experienced a failed start during the 1920s, when inventors in both Europe and America developed prototypes based on the 1884 work of Paul Nipkow. Television stalled during the late 1930s because of monopolies (Starr, 1982).

The FCC assigned television channels to specific markets. As detailed in Boddy (1993), "in order to avoid interference, the commission in 1945 mandated geographical separations of eighty-five miles for stations on adjacent television channels and two hundred mile for stations on the same channel". Geographical separation were subsequently reduced to seventy-five miles and 150 miles in 1948.

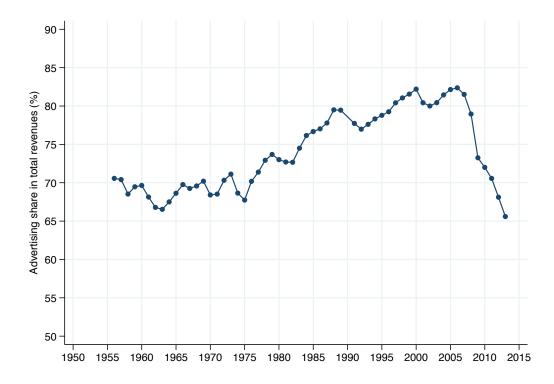
The critical issue of the television hearings was the role of UHF (ultra high frequency). As described in details in Boddy (1993), "in its original allocations rulings for commercial television in the VHF band in 1941, the commission urged the industry to experiment with high definition and color television on the much large UHF band set aside for television experimentation." The battle over UHF television reached center stage in the allocation hearings of 1943-44. On the one hand, CBS pressed a high-definition black and white system on the UHF band, offering the possibility of higher-definition monochrome and color broadcasting. On the other hand, RCA and others with significant interests in manufacturing and broadcasting, supported the immediate commercial expansion of VHF (very high frequency) service and opposed the proposed shift to the UHF band. In May 1945, the FCC approved a thirteen-channel VHF television system. At the same time, however, it encouraged continued experimentation in the UHF band with an eye toward the possibility of an eventual shift of the entire television service to the higher band. As highlighted by Boddy (1993), "by approving VHF licenses in the short run while threatening an eventual move to UHF, the FCC's 1945 allocation decision led many prospective VHF broadcasters to hold off while awaiting the fate

¹The description of the broadcast license application process made in this paragraph relies on the "History of the Broadcast License Application Process" prepared for the FCC in 2000.

of color and UHF television". De facto, according to the 1946 FCC's Annual Report, 80 of the 1958 postwar applications for television stations were subsequently withdrawn by the end of that year. The FCC notes in the report that "the reasons given [for the withdrawal] were either a desire to wait for color television or that television required a greater capital outlay than the applicants had anticipated." In other words, because of this battle regarding the shift, the postwar development of television was slower than expected. More importantly, in a 1947 ruling, the FCC rejected the CBS UHF color proposal which led to an increasing number of applications.

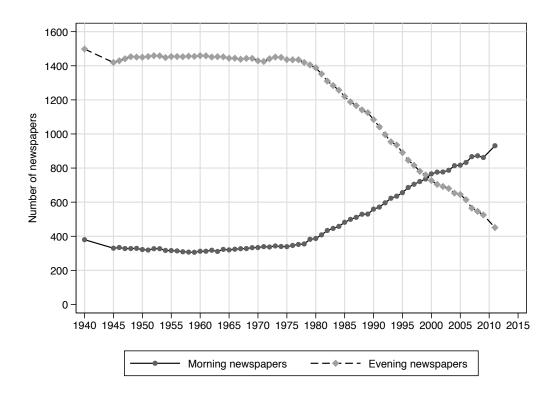
Content As noted in Noll et al. (1973), "the fact remains that almost all of the programming broadcast over the local stations has a national focus." Television stations produced little original journalism at the time "since most local stations had been slow to get into the news business, providing little more than short summaries of wire-service headlines throughout the 1950s" (de Leon, 2015). As highlighted in a FCC report reviewing FCC's historical decisions, "localism" did not produce the desired "local programming" during its first decades (Ismail, 2010).

B Additional figures



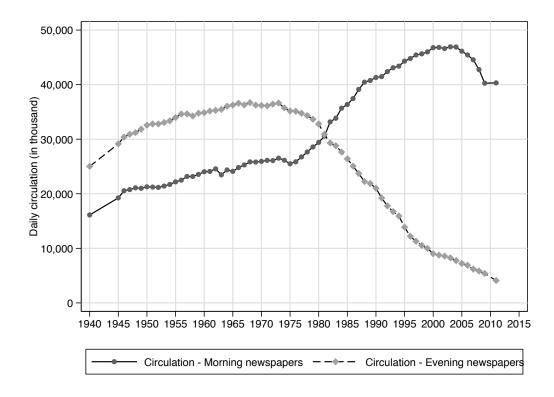
Notes: The Figure plots the evolution of the advertising share in newspaper total revenues in the United States between 1956 and 2013. Data on newspaper revenues are from the Newspaper Association of America (NAA).

Figure B.1: Advertising share in newspaper total revenues, United States, 1956-2013



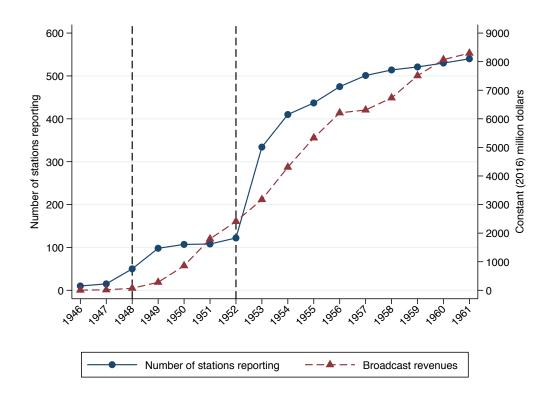
Notes: The Figure plots the evolution of the total number of morning newspapers and of evening newspapers in the United States between 1940 and 2011. Data on the number of newspapers are from the Newspaper Association of America (NAA).

Figure B.2



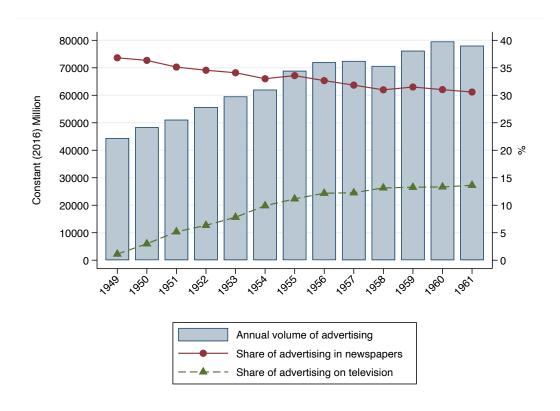
Notes: The Figure plots the evolution of the total circulation (aggregated over all newspapers) of morning newspapers and of evening newspapers in the United States between 1940 and 2011. Data on newspapers' circulation are from the Newspaper Association of America (NAA).

Figure B.3



Notes: The Figure plots the evolution of the number of stations reporting (blue line with dots, left y-axis), and of the total broadcast revenues (dashed red line with triangles, right y-axis), from 1946 to 1961. The data come from the Television Factbooks.

Figure B.4: Expansion of the television industry in the United States: Number of broadcasting stations and Broadcast revenues, 1946-1961



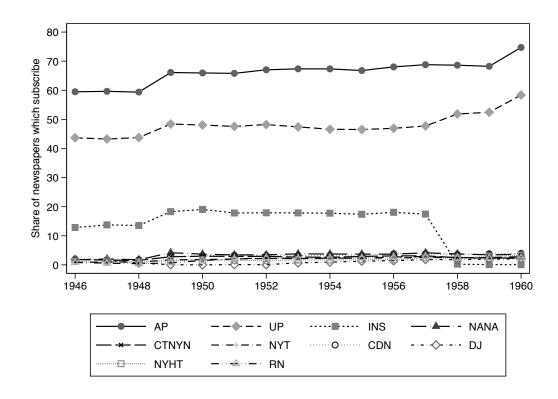
Notes: The Figure plots the evolution of the annual volume of advertising in the United Sates between 1949 and 1961. The blue bars (left y-axis) report the values of the total volume in constant (2016) millions dollars. Total advertising includes advertising on radio and television, advertising in newspapers and magazines, farm publications, direct mail, business papers, outdoor advertising, as well as some miscellaneous advertising. The red line with dots and the dashed green line with triangle represent respectively the share of newspapers and the share of television in total advertising (in percentage, right y-axis). The data come from the Television Factbooks.

Figure B.5: Annual volume of advertising in the United States, 1949-1961



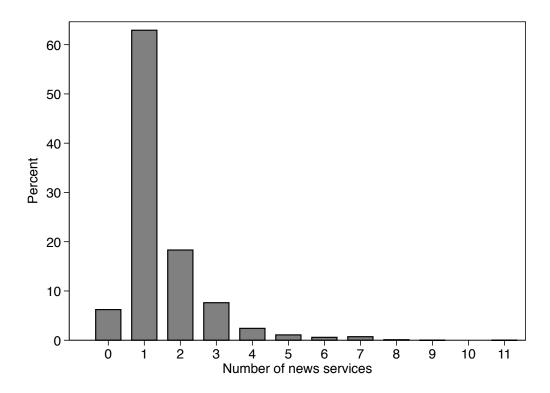
Notes: The Figure shows an example of our manual content analysis. The example here is the front cover of *The Courier-Express* (Dubois, Pennsylvania), September 14 1953. On the frontpage of this issue, we count 25 stories, of which 13 non-wire local and 10 wire non-local stories. Moreover, there are two photos.

Figure B.6: Illustration of Content Analysis: Front cover of *The Courier-Express* (Dubois, Pennsylvania), September 14 1953



Notes: The Figure plots for each year the share of the newspapers which subscribe to the main news services (i.e. AP, UP, INS, etc.). The data come from $Editor \ \mathcal{E}$ Publisher International Yearbook. The collapse of the INS comes from the fact that it was absorbed by UP in 1958.

Figure B.7: Share of newspapers subscribing to the main news services



Notes: The Figure plots the distribution of the number of news services (i.e. AP, UP, INS, etc.) to which the newspapers subscribe. An observation is a newspaper-year. The data come from $Editor \ \mathscr{C}$ Publisher International Yearbook.

Figure B.8: Distribution of the number of news services to which the newspapers subscribe



C Additional tables

Table C.1: Summary statistics: Newspapers' Characteristics, only Newspapers included in the content analysis

	Mean	St.Dev	P25	Median	P75	Obs
Subscription price	0.43	0.09	0.36	0.42	0.46	2,098
Daily Circulation	16,593	19,734	$5,\!215$	9,778	20,633	2,098
Advertising Rate	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	1,990
National Lineage	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.8	1,360
Local Lineage	4.8	3.0	2.5	4.0	6.4	1,360
Classified Lineage	1.0	0.9	0.4	0.6	1.3	1,348

Notes: The Table provides summary statistics. An observation is a newspaper/year. The time period is 1944-1964. Only the 103 newspapers that are used in the content analysis are included (evening newspapers circulating in "freeze" cities). Subscription price and advertising rate are in constant (2016) dollars.

Table C.2: Broadcast Launches Around the 1948 Licensing Freeze

Licensed Prior to Freeze Licensed After Freeze First Commercial First Commercial Market Market Broadcast Broadcast Nashville, TN Sept 30, 1950 Portland, OR Sep 20,1952 May 1, 1950 Oct 12, 1952 Lansing, MI Denver, Co Norfolk, VA Apr 2, 1950 Lubbock, TX Nov 13, 1952 Des Moines, IA Feb 21, 1950 Austin, TX Nov 27, 1952 San Antonio, TX Dec 11, 1949 Honolulu, HI Dec 1, 1952 Phoenix, AZ Dec 4, 1949 Colorado Springs, CO Dec 7, 1952 Utica, NY Dec 1, 1949 Roanoke, VA Dec 11, 1952 Binghamton, NY Dec 1, 1949 El Paso, TX Dec 14, 1952 Dec 20, 1952 Davenport, IA Oct 31, 1949 Spokane, WA Tulsa, OK Oct 22, 1949 South Bend, IN Dec 21, 1952 Kansas City, MO Oct 16, 1949 Wilkes-Barre, PA Jan 1, 1953 Charleston, WV Oct 22, 1949 Youngstown, OH Jan 11, 1953 Greensboro, NC Sep 22, 1949 Tucson, AZ Jan 13, 1953 Johnstown, PA Sep 15, 1949 Mobile, AL Jan 14, 1953 Jacksonville, FL Sep 15, 1949 Rocherster, MN Jan 16, 1953 Omaha, NE Aug 29, 1949 Bangor, ME Jan 25, 1953 Peoria, IL Grand Rapids, MI Aug 15, 1949 Feb 05, 1953 Charlotte, NC Jul 15, 1949 Lincoln, NE Feb 18, 1953 Providence, RI Jul 10, 1949 Seattle, WA Mar 1, 1953

Notes: Source data are from *Advanced TV Factbook*. Non-commercial broadcasts are excluded. The left set are ordered by descending date, the right by ascending.

Table C.3: Summary Statistics: Newspapers' Characteristics, only Freeze Cities, using a 20-month window around the "freeze"

	Mean	St.Dev	P25	Median	P75	Obs
Subscription price	0.43	0.10	0.36	0.40	0.47	21,266
Daily Circulation	35,906	$73,\!365$	4,881	$9,\!580$	26,889	$21,\!266$
Advertising Rate	1.1	1.2	0.4	0.6	1.1	20,303
National Lineage	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.7	11,284
Local Lineage	4.6	3.7	2.3	3.6	5.7	11,304
Classified Lineage	1.1	1.3	0.3	0.6	1.3	11,236

Notes: The Table presents summary statistics. An observation is a newspaper/year. The time period is 1944-1964. Only newspapers located in "freeze cities" are included. We use a 20-month window to define the freeze sample. Subscription price and advertising rate are in constant (2016) dollars.

D Robustness checks

Table D.1: Total Number of Stories: Nearest-Neighbor Matching Estimators

	Total	Text	Nation	Vational Wire	Local Orig	local Original Stories	Photos	tos	Editorials	rials
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(7)	(8)	(6)	(10)
TV	-21.568*	-21.427*	-5.418	-6.403*	-18.983*	-16.706*	-2.096	-2.050	1.766*	1.444
	(11.337)	(11.382)	(3.637)	(3.730)	(10.175)	(10.119)	(1.873)	(1.868)	(1.052)	(1.039)
Match on Year and Census	X	×	X	X	×	×	X	X	X	X
Match on #papers		×		×		×		×		×
Observations	1,829	1,829	1,829	1,829	1,829	1,829	1,829	1,829	1,829	1,829

Notes: * p<0.10, ** p<0.05, *** p<0.01. The time period is 1946-1955. An observation is a newspaper-date. All specifications match on year (exact), city population, and from the 1950 census: median family income, median schooling, and percent urban. Estimates are bias-adjusted.

Table D.2: Readership Market Regressions: Including all newspapers

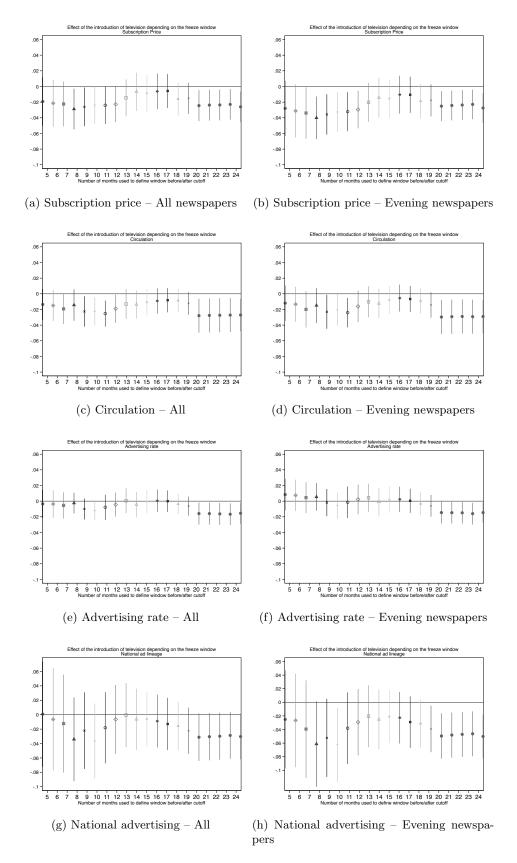
	Sul	scription p	rice		Circulation	l
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
TV	-0.029**	-0.020	-0.030**	-0.022**	0.009	-0.026**
	(0.012)	(0.019)	(0.012)	(0.011)	(0.011)	(0.012)
Year & Newspaper FEs	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sample	All	Morning	Evening	All	Morning	Evening
R-sq	0.55	0.59	0.54	0.99	0.99	0.98
R-sq (within)	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.44	0.38	0.46
Observations	$29,\!367$	5,962	$23,\!395$	29,367	5,962	$23,\!395$
Clusters (TVStation)	357	195	335	357	195	335

Notes: * p<0.10, ** p<0.05, *** p<0.01. The time period is 1944-1964. Models are estimated using OLS estimations. Standard errors are clustered at the television station level. Dependent variables are in natural logs. All specifications include city population as a control, an indicator for city population missing, categorical variables for the number of newspapers in the market, and year and newspaper fixed effects.

Table D.3: Advertising Market Regressions: Including all newspapers

		Ad Prices		Loca	cal Adverti.	sing	Natio	ional Adver	tising	Class	sified Adver	tising
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(7)	(8)	(6)	(10)	(11)	(12)
TV	-0.007	0.014	-0.011	0.009	0.067**	0.001	-0.035**	0.010	-0.047***	-0.024	0.015	-0.025
	(0.008)	(0.015)	(0.008)	(0.013)	(0.032)	(0.014)	(0.018)	(0.041)	(0.018)	(0.017)	(0.047)	(0.018)
Year & Newspaper FEs	×	X	×	×	×	×	×	X	X	×	×	×
Sample	All	Morning	Evening	All	Morning	Evening	All	Morning	Evening	All	Morning	Evening
$ m R ext{-}sq$	0.97	0.96	0.96	0.78	0.84	0.73	0.85	0.88	0.79	0.85	0.87	0.82
R-sq (within)	0.33	0.23	0.38	0.20	0.26	0.20	0.33	0.31	0.34	0.22	0.22	0.23
Observations	27,599	5,557	22,032	15,726	2,286	13,429	15,697	2,266	13,420	15,635	2,268	13,356
Clusters (TVStation)	356	194	333	343	145	315	343	143	315	343	145	315

Notes: * p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.00. The time period is 1944-1964. Models are estimated using OLS estimations. Standard errors are clustered at the television station level. Dependent variables are in natural logs. All specifications include city population as a control, an indicator for city population missing, categorical variables for the number of newspapers in the market, and year and newspaper fixed effects.



Notes: The figures plot the coefficient associated to TV in equation (10) depending on the size of the window (in number of months) used to define the "freeze".

Figure D.1: Effect of the introduction of television, using different windows around the "freeze" 20

Table D.4: Readership Market Regressions: Only newspapers for which we have content data

	Subscription price	Circulation
	(1)	$\overline{(2)}$
TV	-0.008	-0.046***
	(0.024)	(0.017)
Year & Newspaper FEs	X	X
R-sq	0.51	0.98
R-sq (within)	0.19	0.55
Observations	2,098	2,098
Clusters (TVStation)	65	65

Notes: * p<0.10, ** p<0.05, *** p<0.01. The time period is 1944-1964. Models are estimated using OLS estimations. Standard errors are clustered at the television station level. Dependent variables are in natural logs. All specifications include city population as a control, an indicator for city population missing, categorical variables for the number of newspapers in the market, and year and newspaper fixed effects.

Table D.5: Advertising Market Regressions: Only newspapers for which we have content data

	Ad Prices	Local Advertising	National Advertising	Classified Advertising
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
TV	-0.036**	-0.026	-0.058	-0.095
	(0.017)	(0.038)	(0.036)	(0.059)
Year & Newspaper FEs	X	X	X	X
R-sq	0.96	0.82	0.82	0.85
R-sq (within)	0.48	0.28	0.39	0.33
Observations	1,990	1,359	1,359	1,347
Clusters (TVStation)	65	61	61	60

Notes: * p<0.10, ** p<0.05, *** p<0.01. The time period is 1944-1964. Models are estimated using OLS estimations. Standard errors are clustered at the television station level. Dependent variables are in natural logs. All specifications include city population as a control, an indicator for city population missing, categorical variables for the number of newspapers in the market, and year and newspaper fixed effects.

Table D.6: Robustness check: Consider "all day" newspapers as evening newspapers

	Subscription price	Circulation	Ad Prices	Local Advertising	National Advertising	Classified Advertising
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)
TV	-0.025**	-0.029**	-0.016*	0.003		-0.021
	(0.012)	(0.013)	(0.009)	(0.017)	(0.019)	(0.021)
Year & Newspaper FEs	×	×	X	×	X	×
Sample	Evening (incl. all day)	Evening (incl. all day)	Evening	Evening (incl. all day)	g (incl. all day)	Evening (incl. all day)
$ m R ext{-}sq$	0.52	66.0	0.97	0.77	0.85	0.85
R-sq (within)	0.16	0.46 0.5	0.36	0.20	0.32	0.23
Observations	19,595	19,595	18,782	10,716	10,710	10,664
Clusters (TVStation)	203	203	202	196	196	196

Notes: * p<0.10, ** p<0.05, *** p<0.01. The time period is 1944-1964. Models are estimated using OLS estimations. Standard errors are clustered at the television station level. Dependent variables are in natural logs. All specifications include city population as a control, an indicator for city population missing, categorical variables for the number of newspapers in the market, and year and newspaper fixed effects.

Table D.7: Robustness check: Readership, Using a different set of controls

	Sul	scription p	rice		Circulation	1
	(1)	(2)	(3)	$\overline{(4)}$	(5)	(6)
TV	-0.026**	-0.027	-0.026**	-0.026**	0.001	-0.029**
	(0.012)	(0.021)	(0.011)	(0.012)	(0.014)	(0.013)
Year & Newspaper FEs	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sample	All	Morning	Evening	All	Morning	Evening
R-sq	0.53	0.55	0.53	0.99	0.99	0.98
R-sq (within)	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.43	0.38	0.45
Observations	21,219	4,473	16,737	21,219	4,473	16,737
Clusters (TVStation)	203	144	191	203	144	191

Notes: * p<0.10, *** p<0.05, *** p<0.01. The time period is 1944-1964. Models are estimated using OLS. Standard errors are clustered at the television station level. Dependent variables are in natural logs. All specifications include city population as a control, an indicator for city population missing, and year and newspaper fixed effects.

Table D.8: Robustness check: Advertising, Using a different set of controls

		Ad Prices		Local	sal Adverti:	sing	National	onal Adver	tising	Class	Classified Advertising	rtising
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		(7)	(8)	(6)	(10)	(11)	
TV	-0.015*	-0.005	-0.015*	0.005	*690.0		-0.028	0.040	-0.045**	-0.019	0.017	
	(0.008)	(0.019)	(0.008)	(0.017)	(0.041)	(0.017)	(0.019)	(0.051)	(0.019)	(0.020)	(0.056)	(0.022)
Year & Newspaper FEs	×	X	X	×	X		×	×	X	X	X	
Sample	All	Morning	Evening	All	Morning		All	Morning	Evening	All	Morning	
$ m R ext{-}sq$	0.97	0.96	96.0	0.77	0.84		0.85	0.87	0.79	0.85	0.87	
R-sq (within)	0.36	0.25	0.40	0.19	0.25		0.32	0.30	0.32	0.23	0.18	
Observations	20,250	4,282	15,959	11,224	1,631		11,206	1,618	9,580	11,160	1,612	
Clusters (TVStation)	202	142	189	196	101		196	100	179	196	101	

Notes: * p<0.10, ** p<0.05, *** p<0.01. The time period is 1944-1964. Models are estimated using OLS. Standard errors are clustered at the television station level. Dependent variables are in natural logs. All specifications include city population as a control, an indicator for city population missing, and year and newspaper fixed effects.

E Additional Theory Proofs

E.1 Lemma E.1 and Proof

Lemma E.1 In the perfect positive correlation case, bundling is only weakly optimal and does not modify the incumbent's incentives to produce content.

Proof Suppose I sells each product k separately, for k = L, N. It sets $(p_{I,k}^R, p_{I,k}^A)$ to maximize:

$$\pi_k = p_{I,k}^R 2 \left(q_{I,k} + \frac{1}{2} - p_{I,k}^R \right) + p_{I,k}^A 2 \left(\frac{1}{2} \beta d_{I,k}^R + \frac{1}{2} - p_{I,k}^A \right) - F(q_{I,k}). \tag{1}$$

Setting $p_{I,k}^R = \frac{1}{2} \frac{2-\beta(1+\beta)+2\left(2-\beta^2\right)q_{I,k}}{4-\beta^2}$ and $p_{I,k}^A = \frac{1}{2} \frac{2+\beta+2\beta q_{I,k}}{4-\beta^2}$ is optimal and I's per-product profits are equal to $\frac{1}{2} \frac{(2+\beta)\left(1+2q_{I,k}\right)+4q_{I,k}^2}{4-\beta^2}$. In turn, I finds it optimal to set $q_{I,k} = \overline{q}$ if and only if $F \leq \frac{(2+\beta)\triangle q+2\left(\overline{q}^2-q^2\right)}{4-\beta^2}$. Comparing these expressions to those stated in Lemma 1 yields Lemma E.1's results. \blacksquare

E.2 Lemma E.2 and Proof

Lemma E.2 In the perfect negative correlation case, bundling is strictly optimal and raises the incumbent's incentives to produce content.

Proof Suppose first that I sells local and national news separately, by setting $q_{I,L}=q_{I,N}=q\in\{\underline{q},\overline{q}\}$. I's corresponding profits are equal to $\frac{(2+\beta)(1+2q)+4q^2}{4-\beta^2}$. Suppose now that I sells local and national news as a bundle, also by setting $q_{I,L}=q_{I,N}=q$. I's profits are then equal to $2q+1+\beta$. We show that $2q+1+\beta>\frac{(2+\beta)(1+2q)+4q^2}{4-\beta^2}$, thereby establishing the strict optimality of bundling. The latter inequality can be rewritten as:

$$\frac{(2+\beta)(1+2q)}{4-\beta^2} < 2q\left(1 - \frac{2q}{4-\beta^2}\right) + 1 + \beta. \tag{2}$$

Using condition $\overline{q} < \frac{1}{4}(2+\beta)(1-\beta)$, one derives that a sufficient condition for inequality (2) to obtain is given by:

$$\frac{(2+\beta)(1+2q)}{4-\beta^2} < \frac{6-\beta^2+\beta}{4-\beta^2}q + 1 + \beta. \tag{3}$$

Inequality (3) always holds because (i) $1 + \beta > \frac{2+\beta}{4-\beta^2}$ and (ii) $\frac{6-\beta^2+\beta}{4-\beta^2}q > \frac{2(2+\beta)}{4-\beta^2}q$ when $\beta < 1$. It follows that bundling is strictly optimal.

We now show that bundling always increases I's incentives to produce content. Under bundling, I sets $q_{I,L}=q_{I,N}=\overline{q}$ if and only if $F\leq \overline{q}-\underline{q}$. Similarly, under separate sales, I sets $q_{I,L}=q_{I,N}=\overline{q}$ if and only if $F\leq \frac{(2+\beta)\triangle q+2(\overline{q}^2-\underline{q}^2)}{4-\beta^2}$. It follows that I's incentives to produce

content are greater under bundling than separate sales if and only if $\overline{q} - \underline{q} \ge \frac{(2+\beta)\triangle q + 2(\overline{q}^2 - \underline{q}^2)}{4-\beta^2}$. If $\underline{q} < \overline{q}$, the latter inequality holds as long as $\underline{q} + \overline{q} \le \frac{1}{2} \left(2 - \beta^2 - \beta\right)$, which itself always holds because $\overline{q} \le \frac{1}{4} \left(2 + \beta\right) \left(1 - \beta\right)$ necessarily.

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