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Mr. Benson, who still want to carry wgn-tv sign with one of his competitors, United Video, which is scheduled to occupy transponder 3 and is now awaiting tariff approval.

According to Mr. Taylor, the loss of the wgn-tv service, which represented up to $2 million worth of business, immediately affects some 70 cable systems with 300,000 subscribers. Fees were expected to have begun sometime this month, and Southern expected many more systems to sign on after the service started.

When asked by Broadcasting whether the RCA position amounted to the satellite company dangling a transponder in front of Southern in return for dropping the suit, Mr. Taylor replied: "If you weren't a reporter, I'd have a stronger word for it."

Donald Quinn, an RCA spokesman, read a statement by RCA Americom President Andrew Inglis, stating that the transponder was "indeed exhibiting some erratic behavior" but that RCA had not yet declared it inoperable. According to Mr. Inglis's statement, the transponder may still be used.

RCA refused, however, to comment on Mr. Taylor's charge that it had offered Southern a new transponder in exchange for dropping the suit. Mr. Quinn said that RCA had offered to shift the SCS transponder 18 service to transponder 1 and that transponder 13 was "being looked at" by the company's engineers. He said it would be "extremely difficult because of the full-capacity situation" to assign Southern another satellite channel.

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