

*[first lines]*

*Sig Mickelson: In 1935, Ed Murrow began his career with CBS. When World War II broke out, it was his voice that brought the Battle of Britain home to us, through his "This Is London" radio series. He started with us all, many of us here tonight, when television was in its infancy, with the news documentary show, "See It Now." He threw stones at giants. Segregation, exploitation of migrant workers, apartheid, J. Edgar Hoover, not the least of which, his historical fight with Senator McCarthy. He is the host of our enormously popular show, "Person to Person," and tonight he is here with his son, Casey, wife, Janet, and all of you who he's worked with, inspired, lectured, and taught. Ladies and gentlemen, the Radio-Television News Directors Association and Foundation welcomes Mr. Edward R. Murrow.*

*[last lines]*

*Edward R. Murrow: Let us dream to the extent of saying that on a given Sunday night the time normally occupied by Ed Sullivan is given over to a clinical survey of the state of American education, and a week or two later the time normally used by Steve Allen is devoted to a thoroughgoing study of American policy in the Middle East ...*

*To those who say people wouldn't look; they wouldn't be interested; they're too complacent, indifferent and insulated, I can only reply: There is, in one reporter's opinion, considerable evidence against that contention. But even if they are right, what have they got to lose? Because if they are right, and this instrument is good for nothing but to entertain, amuse and insulate, then the tube is flickering now and we will soon see that the whole struggle is lost. This instrument can teach, it can illuminate; yes, and 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 wires and lights in a box. Good night, and good luck.*

The film "Good Night, and Good Luck," is bookended around those lines. Do some quick research and, in about two pages, determine:

- 1.) Did Murrow really say that during a speech to the RTNDA in 1958. Cite sources and investigative techniques. Let me see your intellectual footprints.
- 2.) How did TV, which was then still "in its infancy," see itself? Was it a place for serious journalism? For example, Murrow had to balance the serious stuff (McCarthy) with "fluff" (Liberace interview on "Person to Person"). Has anything real – or have any perceptions of journalism – changed over the past 50 years?