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Published by The Memphis Publishing Co.
495 Union Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38101
JOSEPH R. WILLIAMS, Business Manager

The Memphis Commercial Established 1889
The Appeal Established 1840
The Avalanche Established 1867
Consolidated July 1, 1894

Tuesday, February 26, 1980

Stay Tuned

IF THERE IS anything positive to be said about Memphis being tuned out when the United States hockey team won a political as well as athletic contest at Lake Placid, it is that locals have let it be known in no uncertain terms that they like to feel they are participants in the events of a larger nation and a larger world, now and then.

Happily, Memphians are not always as apathetic and insular and isolated as those who make decisions for them sometimes believe.

Officials of WHBQ-TV apparently thought their choice was a relatively simple one between a far-away sports event and a hometown church service.

It should have been obvious what was really at stake here. There was nothing ordinary about these Games or these times or these circumstances. Unfolding against a backdrop of invasion, boycott, youthful heroism and unabashed patriotism, the Sunday morning telecast of the USA vs. history was nothing short of a global news event. Anyone who has to be told why couldn't possibly understand.

For untold thousands of people in this area to be denied a chance to share such a moment of national unity and pride passes all understanding.

The public outcry proves that Memphians are tired of being left out and embarrassed. And there's a lesson in that for all of us.

