

ROY JONES, JR. - STATEMENT TO SENATE COMMITTEE

I want to thank Senator McCain and this committee for passing the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act. You have started the fight against the people who have brought our sport down to the level it is today. But events in recent days show that much more has to be done.

Does the world really believe that the Box-Off among Ruiz, Holifield, and Rahman will determine the true heavyweight champion of the world? There are many who believe that there are three or four heavyweights in the world who could beat any of the three.

I am at the twilight of my career and as most boxing people realize I say what I think. I would be willing to do anything to help you help boxing.

I believe the way to get our sport back to the "good old days" is to provide a league concept--something like the NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL, etc. Every sport has a governing body. We have the television networks and the promoters governing our sport. This is the problem.

I don't know how to do this, but I hope this committee will study the problem and use its influence to try and get a legitimate boxing ruling body that will control the sport. What we have today is a joke! We need some new ideas. We need you as a committee to bring together some people who are very knowledgeable of the sport! People who are honest and are willing to try to save the sport which I love. Why don't we look to some of the experts in other sports who also have a love and knowledge of boxing?

In closing, I commend the work you have done. Please do not stop. Use your influence to try one more time to bring the private sector into boxing so that the changes can be made without legislation. If this fails, then maybe the only answer is for you to outlaw those contracts between the boxers and those that now control the sport...the networks and the promoters.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Respectfully Submitted:

Roy Jones, Jr.