

2011년 7월 5일 키워드 스피킹 방송 / 주제: KBS 수신료 인상

Paul's Summary (transcribed)

This past Tuesday, lawmakers of the Democratic Party **boycotted** a key parliamentary session in order to stop the Grand National Party's bill to **increase TV licensing fees for KBS**. The Democratic Party along with civic groups are standing firm on **halting the subscription hike** for the **state-run** Korea Broadcasting System. The **mandatory monthly fee** has been collected from each household and has been **frozen** at 2,500 won for the last 29 years. KBS Board of Governors and GNP lawmakers had wanted to increase the cost of the public service to 3,500 won. Even though a 1,000 won increase doesn't sound very much, this issue has taken center stage due to its controversial motivations.

There are some points that have brought negative attention to this issue. The president of KBS, Kim In-Kyu, was appointed by Lee Myung-Bak after serving as his media advisor in the 2007 presidential race. Kim has been accused of **leaning KBS into a pro-government public broadcaster**. Also, the GNP had unilaterally voted the increase in a sub-committee without proper discussion with opposition leaders. These two observations have led many to believe that more is going on **behind closed doors** than a simple **increase of broadcasting fees**.

KBS and GNP officials defend their proposal by stating that the increase will **reduce the broadcaster's reliance** on advertising revenue. They also say that the fee **hasn't kept up with inflation** over the last three decades. The opposition was quick to counter that the fee increase is in fact a **tax hike** for all Koreans. Many households have already installed cable television and watch network stations through their cable service, therefore making the fee hike unnecessary. KBS had also failed to adequately clarify how the increase in revenue would be used. KBS should first ensure its **independence from political influence** and prove the legitimacy of the subscription hike before demanding a single won from Korean viewers.

Key Words

1. 수신료, 시청료 subscription fee, license fee (BBC의 경우)
2. 수신료를 인상하다 raise subscription fee; subscription fee hike
3. 수신료를 동결하다 halt the subscription hike; free the raise
4. 공영방송 state-run broadcasting system
5. 의존도를 줄이다 reduce the broadcaster's reliance
6. 물가상승을 따라잡지 못하다 do not keep up with inflation
7. 세금 인상 tax hike
8. 자본과 권력으로부터 독립하다 independent of political and corporate influences
9. 수신료 현실화 raise the subscription fee as it has been practically too low
10. 중립적인, 공정한 neutral, impartial
11. 편향되어 있는 biased, have a lot of bias

More Key Words

1. 의무적으로 납부하다 subscription fees are like mandatory taxes
2. 광고주 advertisers
3. 광고를 빼버리다 pull one's advertisement