

Washington Report

The National Association of Educational Broadcasters

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FISCAL FUSS

NAEB, through its general counsel, Cohn and Marks, is preparing comments requesting that educational stations be exempted from preparation of the financial information required in the expanded Form 324.

Broadcasters in general are irked at the proposal to require a greatly misused amount of financial data. To smaller stations, especially, it's a big headache. NAEB's position is that for noncommercial stations the questions do not apply.

WALTER REED CUTBACK

Possibility looms that TV operation at Walter Reed Hospital, one of the most elaborate TV medical installations in the world, faces virtual liquidation under a budgetary cut calling for reduction of the staff of 57 employees to 19 employees. The reduction will mean practical immobilization of the \$1,000,000 TV production center that has done medical information and scientific programing for military, governmental, and national professional groups. Individuals and groups prominent in medicine, science, arts, and educational TV are hopeful of salvaging project until its potential usefulness can be more fully appraised.

ALL-CHANNEL RECEIVERS

FCC Commissioner Robert E. Lee believes there's a good chance that the new Congress will pass legislation requiring manufacture of all-channel TV sets. Repeating his stand for all UHF-TV made in his speech at NAEB convention, Lee told Electronic Industries Assoc. that the mandatory provision, though admittedly a form of government interference with private industry, is justified by the critical nature of the present situation. EIA promptly, for the third time, rejected any and all proposals that in any way impose government control over TV set specifications.

A strong faction in the Commission feels that all-channel sets are basic to any solution of the allocations problem; good chance FCC will recommend all-channel set legislation to Congress.

EDUCATIONAL FM FILLINGS

Two FM applications have been accepted for filing as follows: Modification of construction permit to the University of Chicago for station WUCB-FM for extension of completion date; construction permit to Northwestern University to install new transmitter and antenna for station WNUR.

Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, has tendered for filing an application for a construction permit for a new station to be operated on 88.1 megacycles with 10-watt power.

FCC-UHF EXPERIMENT

Activation has begun of \$2 million experiment with UHF in New York. FCC, which was given money by Congress to conduct a full-scale test of UHF potential for serving a metropolitan area, is acquiring tower-mounting rights on Empire State Building.

Commissioner Lee, protagonist for project, says the station will use UHF Ch. 31, ETV reservation in New York, and he will recommend that after the two-year experiment is over, the facilities be given to New York City as an educational broadcasting facility.

Engineers Cy Braum (JCET) and Stewart Bailey (Jansky & Bailey, Inc., NAEB's engineering consultant firm) are advisors on the project.

WGBH-TV STILL PURSUED

David Franklin, write-in congressional candidate whose attempt to have the court intervene in his effort to get equal time on the WGBH-TV series "Ask the Candidate" was thwarted when his request for an injunction was denied on the grounds that FCC has primary jurisdiction, has not given up; he has now petitioned the FCC.

WGBH-TV's position is that the series was a bona fide news series and therefore exempt from equal-time requirement. Counsel for WGBH-TV is collecting affidavits from authorities testifying to this effect.

FCC DELETES 26 UHF CP's

Following its "get tough" policy begun last February, the Commission at the end of November denied extension of construction permits for UHF stations to 26 permittees. No reserved channels were involved. Commissioners Hyde and Lee dissented on grounds that deletions should wait until the Commission has devised an over-all allocations policy.

This action makes a total of 234 UHF permits that have been deleted since 1952.

FCC PROPOSED RULE MAKINGS

Reserving Ch. 18 (commercial) for ETV and deleting Ch. 70 (noncommercial) in Austin, Texas, and adding Ch. 67 to Austin, Texas, and substituting Ch. 75 for Ch. 53 in San Marcos, Texas.

Newark Public Schools, Ohio, request adding ETV Ch. 28 to Newark, and substituting Ch. 68 for Ch. 28 in Lancaster, Ohio.

Adding Ch. 14 & ETV Ch. 31 to Columbia, South Carolina, deleting ETV Ch. 19 and Ch. 67, substituting Ch. 19 for Ch. 14 in Camden, Ch. 67 for Ch. 31 in Lancaster.

Board of Regents, University of State of New York requested that Ch. 23 (now commercial) Albany, be reserved for ETV. Ch. 17 has already been reserved for ETV.

Ogden City Board of Education requested that Ch. 24 (now commercial) be reserved for ETV. Ch. 18 KWCS-TV has been operating since October by the Weber County School District.

WTHS-TV, Ch. 2, Miami, Florida, filed application for Ch. 17. This was necessary because of such a demand for in-school use.

FCC CHAIRMAN

It appears that the Kennedy administration is not going to appoint a new commissioner for some months. Chairman Ford will continue as head with his legislative and regulatory revitalization program.

"MEET THE PROFESSOR"

The Association for Higher Education's TV series scheduled to start on January 29 on ABC has selected Harold Taylor, former president of Sarah Lawrence College, as its host-moderator. The writers for the series include: Elliott Baker, Alvin Boretz and Robert Lewis Shayon. Dr. G. Kerry Smith, executive secretary of the association remarked that the station managers have been very helpful with their suggestions and that more than 70 of the nominees for top college teachers have been screened.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Plans are under way for the Educational Media Council to meet during January -- tentatively the 13th and 14th.

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