

# Special

# Washington Report

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## RIBICOFF FAVORS FEDERAL AID TO ETV

In testimony May 17, before the House Subcommittee on Communications and Power, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Abraham Ribicoff supported "the general objective" of pending legislation to provide Federal aid to ETV. He favored inclusion of provisions for state matching of Federal funds on a 50-50 basis (however, without giving credit for money already expended) and for state surveys and plans to precede any equipment grants. For this latter purpose he recommended an authorization of \$520,000, with not more than \$10,000 to any one state (this same provision is in H.R. 932, H.R. 5099 and H.R. 5336).

Secretary Ribicoff recommended \$25,000,000 for the equipment grants (as opposed to \$52,000,000 recommended in the various bills pending), with no limit as to how much each state might receive (proposed bills set a ceiling of \$1,000,000 per state). He recommended that "construction grants be made on a project-by-project and not a State-by-State basis," and that "provisions be included whereby State plans may be developed cooperatively into interstate or regional plans."

The Secretary said, "The legislation should authorize the Commissioner of Education to make grants on a project basis under priorities to be established. The criteria for such priorities should be designed to achieve the prompt and effective use of the available channels, equitable geographic distribution of the facilities throughout the country, and the setting up of the facilities in such a way as to serve the greatest number of people and broadest uses possible. We recommend an aggregate of \$25 million to be authorized over a 4-year period to pay up to one-half the costs of approved projects. This would be matched by the payment of one-half the costs by the individual sponsoring agency."

Mr. Ribicoff recommended that any legislation "exclude from Federal grants closed-circuit transmission within a single school or occupying a single site."

During the question-and-answer period following his formal statement, Secretary Ribicoff pointed out that the recommendation for \$25 million was based on an average of \$125,000 for each of the approximately 200 unactivated reserved channels. It was also brought out that no per-state ceiling had been recommended because, as he stated in his testimony, the purpose of the legislation is to make ETV available to those areas not now served, and the number of unactivated channels varies greatly from state to state. Thus, some states will naturally undertake more projects than others and the amount of aid needed will vary from state to state.

## HARRIS' SURVEY OF GOVERNORS CITED

At the outset of the above hearings, Subcommittee Chairman Moulder reported on the results of the survey Chairman Harris made among the governors of all the states to determine each state's readiness to participate in a cooperative Federal-State matching program for the establishment of ETV facilities.

Thirty-six replies were received, of which 28 were affirmative: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Eight replies were indefinite: Alaska, Delaware, Kansas, Maine, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, and the District of Columbia. (This report was made by Chm. Moulder. Since the above tally Ohio, for one, has filed a favorable reply.)

(In this connection, we want to thank all NAEB members in the several states who cooperated with Headquarters in urging the Governors to reply to Chm. Harris' letter.)

Secretary Ribicoff, in his testimony, remarked favorably on the results of the survey and pointed out that in at least five of the states from which no reply was received one or more ETV stations are already in operation: Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana and Utah.

#### PRESIDENT RECOMMENDS EXTENSION OF NDEA

On April 25, President Kennedy sent to Congress recommendations for continuation and modification of the National Defense Education Act, and enclosed an analysis by Secretary Ribicoff of HEW. Proposed legislation recommends that the student loan, fellowship, language and statistical improvement programs be made permanent; equipment grants, grants for guidance and counseling and grants for educational media research should be extended for another three years to permit reappraisal after the general education aid programs have gone into operation. Re Title VII extension Ribicoff wrote: "During the next few years it will be possible to conclude exhaustive studies now underway of the relationship of the several media to the improvement of instruction. We can then reach sounder conclusions with regard to the future direction and content of this program."

#### FM STEREO TRANSMISSION

On April 19, FCC amended its rules, effective June 1, to permit transmission of stereophonic programs by FM broadcast stations on a multiplex basis. The system adopted is substantially the one proposed by Zenith and General Electric. Stereophonic broadcasting will be accomplished by means of a subcarrier multiplex system in conjunction with the main channel operation of FM stations.

The amended rules do not apply to noncommercial educational FM stations at present. NAEB is filing a petition to have the rules amended to extend to this class of stations as well. Meanwhile, EFM operators wishing to begin stereophonic transmission immediately may file for special temporary authority.

#### FCC REORGANIZATION PLAN

President Kennedy, on April 27, sent a message to Congress calling for a plan to reorganize the FCC to give the agency greater flexibility via streamlining of routine procedures and greater delegation of authority. Plan would give Chm. Minow greater power in acting for the Commission in assigning cases, give staff more responsibility for making lower-level decisions.

## FCC ACTIONS

April 19 the Commission amended table of assignment by reserving for educational use Ch. 10 (formerly commercial) in Augusta and Presque Island, Maine. Proceedings stemmed from petition of U. of Maine to reserve Ch. 10 as part of state-wide educational network. Bates College, now operating Ch. 10 commercially, intends to operate entirely as an educational station and consented to the reservation.

The Commission has invited comments by May 19 concerning amending the table of assignment to add educational Ch. 20 to Athens, Ohio by deleting the commercial channel from Coshocton and substituting Ch. 71 therefor. Ch. 62 presently available in Athens but the lower UHF channel for which the Ohio University plans to apply, would provide better coverage and reduce shadow problems.

Marshall University, Huntington, W. Va. was granted a CP (April 25) for a new low power non-commercial educational FM station to operate on 88.1 with 10 w. power.

On April 27 the Commission extended by 30 days the May 1 deadline for comments due on suggested methods of reserving one UHF channel in both New York and Los Angeles for educational television.

NETRC has already replied; JCEB and NAEB will file comments shortly.

University of Minnesota at Duluth was granted a CP (April 26) for a new non-commercial educational FM station to operate on 89.1, ERP 225 w.

WJCT, ETV station in Jacksonville, Fla., has filed a request with the FCC for authority to "Scramble" its signals for a limited period of time in order to transmit programs dealing with medical education.

Comments have been invited to proposed rule-making petitioned by NETRC to add Channel 46 for educational use in Lexington, Ky. It would involve deleting commercial Channel 46, Bristol, Tenn., and substituting Channel 75, and substituting Channel 80 for Channel 60 in Richmond, Ky.

The Northern California ETV Assn., Inc., of Redding, Calif., has filed a petition for rule-making looking to reservation of Channel 9 for non-commercial use.

## Non-Commercial Applications Accepted for Filing

Trustees of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois - CP for FM station on 81.1 mc, 10w.

Kent State U., Kent, Ohio - CP to change frequency of WKSU-FM from 81.1 mc to 91.9 mc and increase power and antenna height.

University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind. - CP for FM station on 91.9 mc, 10w.

Florida West Coast ETV, Inc., Tampa, Fla. - CP to change ERP of WEDU from Vis. 56.2 kw, Aural 28.2 kw to Vis. 100 kw, Aural 50 kw.; change type of transmitter; change type of antenna; changes in equipment and antenna height.

The Board of Public Instruction of Dade County, Florida, Miami, Fla. - CP for a new TV STL Station: Power 10 w, Freq. 1990-2008 mc.

## PROPOSED BILL WOULD BOOST EDUCATIONAL POSTAGE

In mid-April, Rep. Tom Murray (D.-Tenn.) introduced H.R. 6418, the Postage Revision Act of 1961, which proposes a general increase in postal rates, including two classes of particular interest to educational broadcasters.

The bill would increase the educational materials rate from 9¢ to 10¢ for the first pound and from 5¢ to 6¢ for each additional pound. The rate for library materials would jump from 4¢ to 5¢ for the first pound and from 1¢ to 3¢ for each additional pound.

The NAEB is planning to file a statement opposing these particular increases since these rates affect mailing of tape recordings and educational publications, etc. Other educational organizations are expected to take similar action.

#### IMPORT OF RECORDINGS, FILM AND SLIDES

NAEB is cooperating in the preparation of legislation to permit educational institutions to import, duty-free, sound recordings, films and slides which are to be used by them in educational broadcasting. The Tariff Act of 1930 provides for the free entry of books, maps, music, and similar materials by educational institutions for their own use or for the encouragement of the arts, but fails to include the new visual and aural techniques.

A bill comparable to the one to be introduced was passed by Congress in 1958, but expired July 1, 1960. It is hoped that the new legislation will not have a terminal date.

#### AT DEADLINE - MORE FCC

On May 10, the FCC accepted for filing the application of the Greater Washington Educational Television Association for a CP for Ch. 26

Realizing that the timeliness of the information in the Washington Report is of vital interest to our Active and Associate Members, Industrial Associates, Board members and officers, we are undertaking a new schedule of production and distribution of the Report. As news develops on the Washington scene we will produce a Report. This may result in it being issued every other week, every week or just once a month. Immediately one copy will be mailed first class to the above categories of members and officers, with it again being distributed to the entire membership with the regular News-letter once a month, as is currently done. Many of you will receive it twice, but we would like to try this production schedule so that you can have the important news from Washington on your desk as soon as possible.

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