

Washington Report

The National Association of Educational Broadcasters

Vol. II No. 2

Dupont Circle Bldg., Washington 6, D. C.

February, 1961

FEDERAL AID FOR ETV

Prospects appear good for enactment during the 87th Congress of some form of federal aid to ETV. Four bills have been introduced similar to those introduced by the same authors in the last session. H.R. 132, by Rep. Roberts (D.-Ala.) authorizes federal matching grants of up to \$1 million for each state, D. C., and Puerto Rico, for construction of TV facilities for educational purposes. Prerequisite to application for funds is submission of a state survey, for which grants up to \$10,000 would be made. Principal changes: matching grants are now required of the states for the survey; the application for survey funds must be made solely by a duly constituted state ETV agency (former bill included an officer responsible for supervision of public education). H.R. 645 by Rep. Boggs (D.-Ia.) is similar and H.R. 965 by Rep. Harris, Chm., House Commerce Committee, is identical to the Magnuson bill. This latter, which has passed the Senate at the last two sessions, was reintroduced by Sen. Magnuson (D.-Wash.), again co-sponsored by Sen. Schoeppel (R.-Kan.). Since its introduction it has gained bi-partisan support by adding two more sponsors: Sens. Metcalf (D.-Mont.) and Cooper (R.-Ky.). This bill would make outright grants up to \$1 million for establishing or improving ETV broadcasting facilities in each state and D. C.

Sen. Magnuson has set the hearings on his bill before the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee for March 1 and 2.

Optimism among supporters of ETV concerning passage of ETV legislation stems from: pledge of support by President Kennedy ("I will actively back legislation aimed at this objective at the next session of Congress."); plank supporting ETV in the Democratic platform; sponsorship of an ETV bill by the Chm. of the House Commerce Committee; the prospect of a reorganization of the House Rules Committee (where bills have died at the last two sessions); and a general atmosphere in the Congress more favorable to federal aid to education. Furthermore, veteran Washington observers point out, it usually takes a bill almost three sessions to get sufficiently well known and to gather enough support to make it all the way.

PETITION FOR RULE MAKING

Pennsylvania State University has requested the FCC to amend rules so as to allocate VHF Channel 3 to State College, Pa., and reserve it for educational use at a separation of 157 miles from WRC-TV, Philadelphia, and 163 miles from WSWA-TV, Harrisonburg, Va.

WILSON HEADS AMERICAN COUNCIL

At a meeting here on January 25 of its members (of which NAEB is one), the American Council on Education elected Dr. Logan Wilson, now chancellor of the University of Texas, to be president of the Council. Under Dr. Wilson's administration the University of Texas has embarked upon a plan to link by microwave 11 institutions of higher learning for cooperative use of instruction and has taken the lead in organizing the Southwest Texas ETV Council, which has a CP for Ch. 9 in the Austin-San Antonio area.

Dr. Arthur Adams, who is retiring as president of ACE this spring, was the prime mover in setting up the JOEET, organized the first national seminar on ETV (Penn State, 1952), and has been a constant friend and supporter of the ETV movement.

MINOW TO HEAD FCC

Newton M. Minow, 34, a member of Adlai Stevenson's law firm, has been named by President Kennedy to be chairman of the FCC. He succeeds Fred Ford, who will continue as a commissioner. In an interview Mr. Minow, a sergeant in the Signal Corps in World War II, said, "I prefer the information and educational type of programing, but I like everything." He told Broadcasting: "ETV? The country needs it badly. Very badly." Minow is counsel for the Midwest Airborne Television Project. Adjectives that have been applied to him by the trade press: liberal, bright, active, outgoing, and civic-, political-, social-minded.

TV ALLOCATIONS AND ETV

Industry trade press is taking notice of NAEB's national survey project to determine education's needs for TV frequencies. Dec. 26 issue of TV Digest: "Basic to FCC's allocation thinking is the all-channel set. In fact, belief is that such sets must be fairly well distributed before a true decision can be made. However, a new and important factor is about to enter picture -- ETV and its potential heavy UHF requirements. If ETV requests and gets substantial number of exclusive UHF channels, commercial interests will begin to worry about lebensraum any time anyone talks of an ultimate shift of all TV to UHF. Earlier this year, FCC Chmn. Ford, in an off-record talk to educators, chewed them out for not having a long-range nation-wide allocation plan. They took words to heart, intend to come up with recommendations. Question is when. Ford apparently expects it soon, to be considered in whole TV picture"

ASSISTANT TO NAB PRESIDENT HAS ETV EXPERIENCE

John L. Perry, former Florida newspaperman and administrative assistant to Gov. Leroy Collins of that state, has been named assistant to the president of the National Association of Broadcasters. Formerly he was assistant to the president of Learning Resources Institute and assistant to the president of the Midwest Council on Airborne Television Instruction. Most recently, during October and November, 1960, he served as public administration consultant for the planning of a permanent interstate organization for the MPATI.

JCET DEVELOPMENTS

At a meeting January 3 of the Board of JCET, preliminary steps were taken looking toward a reorganization in which the council would continue as a policy-making group representing the educational community in matters relating to ETV but with staff services assumed by others and made available to the council. This decision followed report that only \$20,000 had been pledged of the \$450,000 needed for continuing long-range support. In preparation for the next meeting (February 3), the NEIRC and NAEB are to develop a joint plan for carrying on staff services and a statement on JCET's functions in such a relationship is to be prepared by the newly elected officers: Chm. Lawrence Dennis, vice pres., Penn State University; Vice Chm. Edgar Fuller, exec. sec., Council of Chief State School Officers.

MPATI, NAEB VISIT USOE RE TITLE III

A delegation from the Midwest Airborne project and NAEB conferred recently with Office of Education officials concerning the admission under Title III of antennas, converters, and amplifiers as integral parts of TV receivers.

Airborne people emphasized importance to project of outside antennas and master antenna systems equipped with converters for reception of the Airborne UHF transmission. NAEB supported the MPATI plea and indicated importance to whole ETV movement of improving reception in fringe areas and for coping with set conversion problems in UHF areas.

USOE people showed sympathetic interest; agreed to consider the matter and issue a directive in the near future.

Group included Wayne O. Reed, Deputy Commissioner; John R. Ludington, director of state and local branch; Jim Miles, project manager, MPATI; Wayne Watson, assoc. dir., MPATI; and NAEB President Harley.

Scanned from the National Association of Educational Broadcasters Records
at the Wisconsin Historical Society as part of
"Unlocking the Airwaves: Revitalizing an Early Public and Educational Radio Collection."



A collaboration among the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities,
University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Communication Arts,
and Wisconsin Historical Society.

Supported by a Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant from
the National Endowment for the Humanities



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication/collection do not necessarily reflect those of the
National Endowment for the Humanities.