

Washington Report

The National Association of Educational Broadcasters

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CLEAR CHANNEL BREAKDOWN

On June 12, the FCC, at long last, made a move looking to a final decision in the clear channel matter, which has been hanging fire for some 15 years. It released instructions to its staff ordering the draft of an order breaking down thirteen of the clear channels, thus opening the way to establishment of additional stations in certain relatively sparsely populated areas. It is expected that the decision will be opposed in the courts by occupants of the channels involved.

The notice does not refer to the several petitions which the NAEB has filed urging reservation of a portion of these channels for educational use. There is no indication of whether our petitions were considered, granted, or denied. There may be something forthcoming on this later this month upon the adoption and issuance of the formal decision.

In any event, educational institutions can obviously apply for permission to operate on these frequencies and, in the states where the possibility exists, immediate consideration can now be given to the possibility of improving thereby the position of existing educational radio stations or of establishing new ones.

The Commission announcement follows:

The Commission on June 12, 1961 instructed its staff to prepare a Report and Order concluding the Clear Channel proceeding (Docket 6741) by rule amendments opening the way to the assignment of one unlimited time Class II station on each of 13 Class I-A clear channels, under controlled conditions to provide service to underserved or white areas, as follows:

<u>Channel</u>	<u>Existing Class I-A Station</u>	<u>Permissible Location of new Class II Station</u>
670 kc	WMAQ Chicago	Idaho
720 kc	WGN Chicago	Nevada or Idaho
750 kc	WSB Atlanta	Anchorage, Alaska $\frac{1}{2}$
760 kc	WJR Detroit	San Diego, Calif. $\frac{1}{2}$
780 kc	WBEM Chicago	Nevada
880 kc	WCBS New York	North Dakota South Dakota or Nebraska
890 kc	WLS Chicago	Utah
1020 kc	KDKA Pittsburgh	New Mexico
1030 kc $\frac{2}{2}$	WBZ Boston	Wyoming
1100 kc	KYW Cleveland	Colorado
1120 kc	KMOX St. Louis	California or Oregon
1180 kc	WHAM Rochester	Montana
1210 kc	WCAU Philadelphia	Kansas, Nebraska or Oklahoma

$\frac{1}{2}$ To accommodate stations required to shift from their present frequencies under the United States-Mexican Broadcasting Agreement.

$\frac{2}{2}$ To be reclassified as a Class I-A clear channel.

The action does not affect present use of the remaining 12 Class 1-A frequencies.

SUBCOMMITTEE OK'S FEDERAL AID TO ETV

The House Subcommittee on Communications and Power last week approved a bill authorizing \$25,250,000 in Federal aid to ETV, and it is anticipated that the bill will shortly receive favorable consideration by the full House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

The bill (HR 132) is an amended version of one introduced by Rep. Kenneth Roberts (D-Ala.), and incorporates most of the recommendations made by HEW Secretary Ribicoff (as reported in Washington Report No. 6). Funds would be administered by the Commissioner of Education who would approve applications and amounts, up to a limit of \$1,000,000 per state, based on availability of ETV channels, location of present ETV stations, and density of population to be served. The bill also requires matching funds from the states and would permit the federal government to recover part of the funds if, within 10 years, the institution or agency receiving the grant ceased to exist or the station was no longer operated educationally. Up to \$10,000 would be available to each state, also on a matching basis, for surveys and planning which would be a prerequisite to the awarding of a construction grant.

This bill differs from the Senate-approved Magnuson bill (S 205) in that the latter would provide \$51,000,000, would not provide for funds for planning, and would not require matching funds from the states. The new bill also differs from the Roberts bill in that it makes no provision for permitting "credit" in matching for previous expenditures for ETV. Efforts will be made to have this provision restored in the House-Senate conference.

FCC PROPOSES LEGISLATION FOR ALL-CHANNEL SETS

The FCC sent Congress (June 15) proposed legislation which would require all TV sets shipped in interstate commerce to be equipped for both VHF and UHF reception. FCC Chairman Newton N. Minow, testifying before the House Antitrust Subcommittee, stated the proposed legislation would provide the spur needed for the development of UHF, adding that it is impossible to have a truly competitive TV system with only the 12 available VHF channels. He said, "With this assurance of eventual access to all television homes, UHF broadcasting can make real progress," and predicted the proposed legislation would insure complete conversion to all-channel receivers within seven to ten years.

Since two-thirds of the channels reserved for educational use are in the UHF band, this legislation is of extreme importance to educational broadcasters.

FCC ACTIONS

The School of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Mo., was granted a CP (June 2) for a new noncommercial educational FM station to operate on 88.1mc, 10w.

Greater Washington Educational Television Assn. granted a CP (June 13) to operate WETA-TV, a noncommercial educational TV station, on Ch. 26, V-123 kw, ERP-224 kw, antenna height of 590', with studios located in Yorktown High School, Arlington, Va.

WCFM, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.; WAMC, Albany (N.Y.) Medical College; WMHC, Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass.; and WSCB, Springfield (Mass.) College were all granted (May 29) licenses covering changes in frequency. (These changes were requested to facilitate operations of the Eastern Educational Network.)

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"Unlocking the Airwaves: Revitalizing an Early Public and Educational Radio Collection."



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