

Washington Report

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FCC vs. FAA

Two government agencies with large responsibilities in the public interest are getting into a stand-off jurisdictional dispute. The Federal Aviation Agency last month proposed to regulate height and site of broadcasting towers. FCC promptly responded that (1) it is charged by law with responsibility for determining whether a radio or TV license is granted and (2) where it is alleged that a tower may be a hazard, the Commission has always held hearings in order to make a qualified judgment. Though views of FAA must be considered, the FCC cannot, it insists, under existing statute, avoid making decision nor delegate responsibility.

Privately, Commissioners feel that, since both are Federal agencies with overlapping jurisdiction, legislation must be passed to spell out precise responsibility of each.

ALL-CHANNEL RECEIVERS

All seven Commissioners are reported to favor legislation which would require TV receivers shipped in inter-state commerce to be all-band equipped. Such a requirement it is claimed would alleviate situation of UHF stations in VHF dominated areas and encourage activation of UHF channels which lie idle because it is feared few viewers would trouble to convert existing sets to receive UHF. Education, which has nearly 2/3 of its reserved allocations in UHF, would stand to benefit by such legislation.

Similar legislation introduced last session was opposed by Commerce Dept. and Electronic Industries Assoc. Their position: such mandatory manufacturing requirement would interfere with free enterprise and force public to pay higher prices for sets even in areas where no UHF is available. Set makers say it costs \$15-\$25 more to make all-band receivers; some engineers insist that completely redesigned sets incorporating all channels could be made for price of present sets.

FCC will push for this legislation in the next session of Congress.

APPLICATIONS

Public schools of Newark, Ohio, have asked that Channel 28, Lancaster, Ohio, be substituted for Newark's Channel 60 assignment. If change is made, the school system will apply for a UHF translator to rebroadcast programs of Ohio State U. station WOSU-TV.

SPECTRUM SURVEY

Mr. Oscar Reed, Jr., head of the Allocations Dept. of Jansky & Bailey, Washington, has been named to head up the engineering aspects of study NAEB has undertaken to determine the needs of education for television spectrum space and to translate these requirements into overall allocations plan which will serve as basis for development of a national educational television system. First phase of study will bring together all existing data on present and planned ETV installations across the nation.

Reed met with some 15 ETV managers at San Francisco to brief them on project.

BORDER ALERT

FCC is considering changes in international agreements to permit VHF drop-ins along Canadian and Mexican borders. Proposed Canadian agreement, for example, would provide possibility of additional V's in Rochester, Syracuse, Bangor, etc.

PAY TV

FCC began hearings Oct. 24 on application of RKO General Inc. for authority to start subscription TV programming over WHCT-TV, Hartford, Conn. Applicant proposes to use Zenith's Phonevision system. Opposing grant are NAB and 5 Hartford theatre owners. In England, British Home Entertainment, Ltd. proposes that nation's third network be a pay system.

ETV GROWTH

TV Digest (Oct. 17) noted: "ETV may repeat its 10 new-stations 1959 record and wind up 1960 with on-air total of 55 non-commercial outlets (including 17 UHF) if following meet their target dates: KTPS Ch.62, Tacoma, Wash. with fall target; KCSD-TV Ch.19, Kansas City, Dec. 15; WIFM-TV Ch.3, Mayaguez, P.R., Dec. This would leave but 15 cp's outstanding for educators -- 7 of them UHF's in New York State..." Publication then lists comparative growth record of educational commercial TV stations after lifting of freeze:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ETV</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL</u>
1953	2	229
1954	10	91
1955	7	52
1956	4	40
1957	6	34
1958	8	28
1959	10	14
1960 thus	7	12
far	54*	500

*Only 52 on air; KTHE, Los Angeles left air in 1954, WKAR-TV, East Lansing, in 1958. Most recent ETV stations to come on: WGTE-TV Ch.30, Toledo; KWCS-TV Ch.18, Ogden, Utah.

U. S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION NOTES

Dr. Roy M. Hall, Ass't. Commissioner for Research and Statistics since 1958 is returning to U. of Texas on Jan. 1. His work with OOE has been centered on the direction of the Cooperative Research Program and the Title VII, NDEA program.

Dr. Franklin Dunham, Radio-TV Division, Educational Media Council has just returned from 6-week Congressional world tour and participation in Interparliamentary Union in Japan. Visits included Netherlands, Switzerland, Lebanon, India, Taiwan, and Japan. Highlight: attending inaugural of first ETV station and only TV station in India, at New Delhi. He also discussed broadcasting problems with the Director General and his associates of NHK, the Japanese broadcasting union. A complete resume of the international broadcasting picture as seen by Dr. Dunham will appear in forthcoming issue of the NAEB JOURNAL.

ICA CONFERENCE

On Nov. 16, Chief Education Officers of ICA Mission around the world meet in Washington with afternoon session devoted to communications problems and possibilities. Speakers include: Gerald Winfield, Chief of Audio-Visual Section, ICA; James Flynn, president of DAVI, and Richard Rider (on "TV as a Teaching Tool"), Radio-Television Officer, ICA Communications Media Staff. Conference planned in conjunction with NEA.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A century and a quarter ago Alexis de Tocqueville observed that Americans were an association-minded people, that they had a passion for getting together. Perceptive as he was, the scholarly Frenchman hardly could have foreseen that today in this country there would be some 20,000 "getting togethers" with an annual attendance estimated at 10 million.

Almost anyone in the U.S. can attend some kind of convention, whether he be hod carrier, teacher, lawyer, or candlestick maker. The conventions vary greatly in purpose, size and usefulness. At one extreme is the raucous jamboree where horse-play and revelry overshadow more serious aims; at the other, are the sedate gatherings of various learned societies and scientific organizations.

Why do professional people spend time and money to attend conventions? The Washington Post recently categorized the people who had come to the American Bar Association convention as: lawyers who look upon the ABA as a trade association to promote their interests and protect their bread and butter; politicians who are concerned with power, with who is elected to office, with who makes policy; craftsmen who come to learn, who listen to panels on highly technical subjects, and gather information to help them in their private practice, and socialists, who come to see their old buddies, to tell tales, to live it up.

Were these same types present at the NAEB convention at San Francisco? Yes, to some extent, and these disparate approaches pose a major problem, i.e., planning an agenda to satisfy a wide variety of expectations and interests. Should the program be planned to provide a lavish banquet of many morsels or with a few main courses and several special side dishes? Should people be stuffed with a continuous diet of raw meat or have a little light wine and an opportunity to relax occasionally between servings? Does our convention fit the needs of a varied membership as individuals as well as the purposes of the composite membership which is the association? Is it serving a genuine purpose or is it merely a social convention?

Answers to these questions depend upon what one conceives to be the purposes of a NAEB convention. Among other things, I suggest it should attempt to:

1. Advance the general aims of the association: improving the professional qualifications of educational broadcasters and the quality of educational and general broadcasting; working "to the end that the educational, cultural and technical benefits of broadcasting may be extended to all." The agenda should be planned accordingly, since its parts take on added force as they are perceived to be relevant to these purposes.

2. Chart new courses. This is the opportunity for setting new directions, accelerating recent moves, adding momentum to current projects, reinforcing, re-focusing, or revising policies. While adhering to the general purposes, specific goals need to be set and particular approaches selected. The convention is our only opportunity for group "brain-storming." It provides an environment for face-to-face two-way flow of ideas in which vexing issues can be mutually explored, varied experiences brought to bear on the clarification of problems, and cooperative determinations made as to desired destinations.

3. Provide a reverberation chamber. For these three days out of 365 the members are in group milieu that makes them highly attuned to NAEB concerns both as receptors and stimulators. The convention should create a sort of cyclic-response mechanism by which officers and members interact with one another. The administrator should stimulate the audience with his conception of how and what is to be done; the audience should, through its reactions, stimulate him, and, in turn, the administrator restimulate the members through his sensitive response to their wishes and feelings.

4. Reaffirm the individual in his choice of a career in educational broadcasting. A clearer perception of goals, the encouragement derived from realization that others are meeting and over-coming similar obstacles, the zest that comes from feeling a part of a forward-moving, expanding, positive movement. All these should come from the convention experience. The conventioneer should return home with strengthened motivation and heightened sense of his own challenging role in helping to build a free and informed society. Hopefully, he should feel this so intensively as to impart this same sort of lift to workers in his own shop.

5. Provide professional recognition opportunities for the individual. Such opportunities range from making awards to veterans for accomplishments of the past to affording younger people a chance to contribute their ideas, share their scholarship, and exhibit their capacities. Through reading of technical papers, participation in panels, and remarks from the floor, members can enhance their status and stature among their peers and gain leadership roles in the guidance and direction of their professional organization.

6. Afford a rich and useful learning experience. The attendee should get his money's worth in terms of information and stimulation that can be effectively applied to his own work. This should include finding out about new methods, improved techniques, and the latest developments in equipment and technocracy. He should be able to gain fresh insights, novel ideas and new perspectives. And, finally, he should receive some measure of inspiration, something to "set spark to the spirit." This means not only arranging to have competent technical authorities and stimulating sessions on pertinent topics, but, above all, providing for exposure to some great minds.

7. Demonstrate the cohesion and strength of the organization. Our convention should be more than a platform for the ritualistic utterances of tribal leaders (what Hayakawa terms "accustomed sets of noises") whose principal function is to strengthen our group loyalties, reinforce our professional allegiances, and produce a common bond of reactions. Loyalty, Edgar Dale reminds us, is more than blind following; it is intelligent devotion to a cause or organization. More than grudging assent, spectatoritis, aloofness, it means getting involved, participating, helping determine which way the organization is going and taking responsibility for the consequences. It means thoughtful examination of values and then standing together on a common ground.

Our open forum business sessions provide an environment for frank, free and open discussions that, though they may appear to produce undue stresses and strains, result ultimately in harmony, cooperation, and a feeling and thinking together that achieve not just consent but consensus. The tested fabric is the more secure. Our association can tolerate, without disintegration, much more disorganization and stress than many people recognize.

8. Be conducive to congeniality and comradeship. This is not fellowship in the American Legion sense, but in the mutuality that comes from sharing the same problems and hopes, of meeting and accepting common challenges and responsibilities. The convention provides the opportunity each year to sit down at one table, enjoy with others, experience in common. We all appreciate the yearly opportunity to renew acquaintances, reminisce with old friends, and meet newcomers. To a certain extent an NAEB member can say appropriately of his convention-going what the cabman said about taxi driving: "It's not the work I enjoy so much; it's the people you run into."

Applying these criteria to the recent gathering in San Francisco, it comes close to meeting them all. Congratulations to Jim Day and his staff for a first rate production job and to all who contributed for affording those who attended a most rewarding and memorable experience. -- WGH

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