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25 November 1993

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20554

NOV 29 1993

FCC MAIL ROOM

re: Docket 93-267 (NPRM 8288)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please note that I am strongly opposed to the issuance of "instant callsigns" to applicants who have successfully passed the test for an amateur radio license.

My specific objections are:

1. The callsigns are uncomfortably close to those used by CBers. Although Citizen's Band radio has its place, Ham radio has long attempted to distance itself from the anarchy and chaos of Citizen's Radio.
2. Instant callsigns would complicate the job of Official Observers, since it would be impossible to make even a qualified, prima facie determination of the legitimacy of a callsign.
3. The system for issuing the callsigns would be publicly known; thus, in conjunction with my second objection, there would be no mechanism to further inhibit an unscrupulous, unlicensed person from assuming an instant callsign and using it until challenged. At that point the individual could merely assume a *new* callsign.

I can appreciate FCC's problem of responding to the nearly 1,000 inquiries it receives each month from successful applicants as to the status of their application.

The inquiries result from lack of information. Clearly, if providing information specific to any one applicant is not feasible, then perhaps FCC should consider regularly providing *general* information covering *all* applications.

For example, FCC could provide Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) with a list of numbers. Each successful applicant would be assigned a unique number at the examination point. FCC could then queue up the issued numbers and post the status of the queue in a USENET news group and on the FedWorld computer bulletin board system (BBS). The posting should preferably show the rate of processing, from which a date could be projected for the processing of a specific queue number.

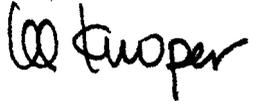
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If some kind of immediate licensing must be accomplished, then at all costs it ~~should not~~ be referred to as "instant licensing" or "instant call signs." It would be much better if a block of call letters was reserved and recycled for this limited application, to be referred to as "disposable call signs" as a default, for lack of a more suitable term.

Incidentally, I find it highly ironic that the *Federal Communications Commission* is apparently not accessible via electronic mail by the general public.

Sincerely,

 N7CUU

Lee Knoper

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