

October 15, 1995

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chair
The Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Diane Fulson
6804 E 69th Street
Kansas City, MO 64133

Dear Honorable Reed Hundt,

I am writing you this letter as a concerned parent first and foremost. I have three children, one boy who is 11 years old, one girl who is 5-1/2 years old and another son who is 2-1/2 years old. The educational welfare of my children is very important to me because I plan on all of them attending college one day in their future. Because of this dream, I know it is very important for children to be exposed to programs that promote the teaching of the Arts, Math, Science, and Language. I know the Public Television Channel provides all of these experiences and more for all children. So, I am begging you to strengthen the Children's Television Act (CTA).

It is important that the Federal Communications Commission work toward increasing specifically designed educational and informational programs to at least one hour per day, so children's minds can be challenged. These standards and informational programs need to be broadcasted during the prime hours that children are exposed to television. These hours would need to fall between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. because children tend to be awake and more likely to be exposed to TV viewing during these hours of the day.

Programs such as the "Flintstones" and "The Jetsons" should not be permitted as valid criteria for "educational and informational" programs because there is no educational essence in these programs. Programs that clearly promote the "educational and informational" programs would include "Sesame Street" and "The Reading Rainbow." Programs like these promote many facets of educational and informational essence because they promote the Arts, Math, English, Science and they provide resources for children to explore and grow.

I strongly encourage the Federal Communications Commission to carefully evaluate the requirements for educational and informational programs so that they strengthen the Children's Television Act. These programs are very important to me because my three children are the most important aspect of my life. I strongly believe that television has an obligation to the children to expose as many of the good things in life as it does so with the bad. Bad things would include cartoons with violence and/or profanity in them.

To me "EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL" programs are all the GOOD things in life.

Regards,



Diane Fulson
Council Delegate for Westridge Elm. PTA
located in the Raytown, MO School District

October 4, 1995

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chair
The Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Children's Television Act (CTA)

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Hundt:

October 16 will be a watershed date for children in this country. On that date, the fate of children's television programming lies in the hands of five little known public officials who serve as key decision makers on the Federal Communication Commission. A majority of these five people--James Quello, Andrew Barrett, Rachelle Chong, Susan Ness and Chairman Reed Hundt can vote to require that TV stations produce at least one hour of educational and informational programming per day or seven hours per week. Or they can support the powerful and well financed television industry and vote against what virtually every parent is demanding: a clean up of the airwaves.

Now, this is not to impugn those few commercial stations who, despite great odds, do produce excellent programs for children. But on a national basis, study after study demonstrates that only approximately three hours out of every week per station is devoted to programming that is specifically produced for children. That is less than one-half hour per day. In addition, a 1995 UCLA report from the Television Monitoring Violence Project raised serious concerns about violence in 1) nearly half of the theatrical films shown on network television; 2) Saturday morning shows that depict "sinister combat violence;" and 3) commercial promotions. The study also raised concerns about the inconsistent or non-existent use of parent advisories. In each of these areas of concern, networks virtually thumbed their noses at parents who have asked for less violent programming. This is not a pretty picture!!

Broadcasters, unlike other businesses including cable television, use the public airwaves free of charge. The airwaves belong to the public--that's us. In return, they are supposed to serve "the educational and information needs of children in overall programming" as required by the Children's Television Act passed in 1991. But over the years, children have received less and less of a bargain as the networks produce more violent programming and count cartoons, sit-coms and public service announcements as their contributions to children.

There are those who oppose this requirement and would like to conduct business as usual. They say this requirement is

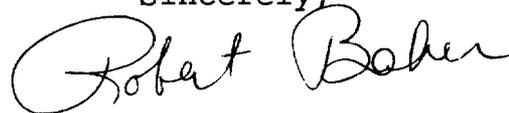
October 4, 1995
Page 2

unconstitutional. But it does not ban any program or content. It merely asks for some regularly scheduled education programs. They say that parents, not any government safeguard, should influence children's TV. But parents cannot select good programming if it isn't offered. They say that the market should control TV content. But the industry has had 30 years of voluntary market opportunities to produce better programming, and TV programming has actually gotten worse. They say that there is no profit to be made from producing children's programming. But in fact, many stations have gotten filthy rich producing violent programs, animated cartoons and programs with toy tie-ins. They say that parents can turn off the TV if they don't like the programming. But that is the ultimate in censorship. Parents know that quality TV programs are an extremely effective and powerful medium for education. Parents just want more good programming.

Now is the time for FCC action, and we may not get this opportunity again for a long time. As TV venues get worse, as a greater number of parents get fed up with the industry's stalling strategies, as citizens become more concerned with violence in programming, the time is right for the FCC to vote for children. Children are three votes away from getting better TV. As a PTA parent, I am writing the FCC to express PTA's long standing support of better TV. Won't you do the same?

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Baker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

October 4, 1995

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chair
The Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Children's Television Act (CTA)

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Broadcasters, unlike other businesses including cable television, use the public airwaves free of charge. The airwaves belong to the public--that's us. In return, they are supposed to serve "the educational and information needs of children in overall programming" as required by the Children's Television Act passed in 1991. But over the years, children have received less and less of a bargain as the networks produce more violent programming and count cartoons, sit-coms and public service announcements as their contributions to children.

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Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Dorlene Becker

mmk

October 11, 1995

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chair
The Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As a parent and PTA member, I am writing to urge you to vote on October 16th to require all TV stations to produce at least one hour of educational and informational programming per day, or at least seven hours per week.

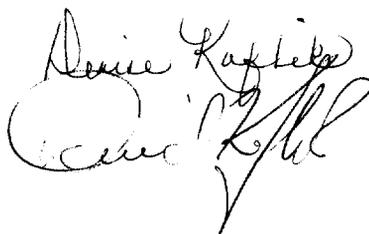
The Children's Television Act (CTA) requires broadcasters to serve the educational and informational needs of children as a condition for license renewal. The FCC rules must ensure compliance with the CTA by writing clear and specific guidelines in this area. The PTA supports the following guidelines:

- A. Set a standard of at least one hour per day of specifically-designed educational and informational programming on all TV stations;
- B. Redefine the FCC definition of "educational and informational" programming in order to close the regulatory loophole which permits stations to cite programming such as "The Simpsons" and the "Flintstones" on their license renewal applications;
- C. Count only standard length, regularly-scheduled educational programs as meeting a station's "core" programming obligations under the Act;
- D. Exclude programs aired before 6:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m. from counting toward the core requirement of children's programming.

Quality children's programs in my community which meet these guidelines include Sesame Street, Reading Rainbow, NOVA, and Mr. Rodger's Neighborhood. Cartoons, sit-coms, and public service announcements do not meet these guidelines. As a parent and a PTA member, I would like to see more good quality programming for children. I would like to see all cartoons and shows depicting violence restricted from the airwaves during the times that children watch TV.

Voluntary steps toward improving children's television simply have not worked. Now is the time for the FCC to take action. No more stalling strategies by the industry. The time is right for the FCC to vote for children.

Sincerely,



11842-103rd Avenue NE
Kirkland, WA 98034
October 16, 1995

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

277023

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chair
The Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir:

I am writing concerning the decision to be made soon by the FCC regarding the amount and content of children's programming aired on commercial television. I am a parent of two elementary school age children and am also very involved in our local school PTA as well as in the local PTA council, both as a committee chair for legislative activities and as a member at large. I see the issue of television programming and the ways it affects all children as a legitimate application and extension of PTA's stated goal of advocating for the health and welfare of all children, both at school and in the community away from school.

The quality and availability of children's TV programming has long been a concern for me. I monitor carefully what my children watch on TV and how much TV they watch; unfortunately, most often there isn't much of good quality from which to choose, and many times the scheduling is awkward and quite sparse. Our family's choice for TV viewing is, very often, shows on our local public TV station such as Bill Nye and Ghostwriter, or nature show programming. We also watch shows such as the several Star Trek series and "Family Matters," programs which I feel offer constructive messages regarding personal interactions and problem solving. So much of commercial TV programming is unsuitable for viewing at the times when my children can watch, i.e. weekday afternoons and early evenings as well as weekend days and evenings.

I would strongly urge the Commission to adopt the positions stated by National PTA:

Set a standard of at least one hour per day of truly educational and information programming on all TV stations

Redefine "educational and informational" programming to be sure that such program content realistically meets rigorous programming standards of suitability

Only count standard length, regularly scheduled programs in assessing a station's educational programming obligations

Exclude programming aired between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am from the core requirement of children's programming

This is not to argue the point that it is ultimately a parent's responsibility to monitor children's TV viewing. However, I would ask that there be a concerted responsible effort on the part of commercial TV stations to work with parents, by making sure that responsible programming with unequivocal educational content is consistently and frequently available. This is particularly important for families who may not have the financial resources to offer other types of educational activities for their children, and for those who live in areas where cultural opportunities and community activities are limited. Good quality TV programming, with substantial content and reasonable scheduling, can provide a very powerful and effective medium for educating our children. This seems a much more positive option than relying on the off switch.

Again, I urge a decision in favor of quality educational TV programming for children as indicated above. This is the most powerful way of making a statement of strong, positive advocacy for the least vocal but the most impressionable commercial TV viewing constituency, our nation's children.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbry Hogue". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Barbry Hogue

October 8, 1995
Leana R. Rasch
799 Beaver Lane
Kilburn, Georgia 30247

2 The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chair
2 The Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20534

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Honorable Hundt,

I am the mother of four children and I am very concerned about the quality of children's television programs. The Children Television Act of 1991 requires broadcasters to serve educational and informational needs of children, as a condition for license renewal. However, the Center for Media Education released a report that showed industry paid little attention to the mandate of the law. Reclassifying cartoons as "educational" is wrong! Obviously, voluntary means toward improving children's television has not worked. The National PTA, and its constituents, was a strong supporter and proponent of CTA. Perhaps, one hour a day of specifically-designed educational and informational programming on all stations (TV), and exclude programs before 6:00 AM and 10:00 PM from counting toward the requirement of children's programming.

Yes, parents very definitely should share responsibility for what their children watch, however, they can't totally do the job themselves. Parents need the active help of the FCC to improve TV quality. What about the African proverb that says "it takes a whole village to raise a child"? Can we all share in the responsibility of providing the opportunity of producing

(over)

educationally and emotionally sound young
people of Tomorrow? We have great children..
.. let's keep them that way!!

Thank you sir for your time and your attention.
Please help us!

Sincerely,
Gene L. Leach

MMB

8 October 95
809 Millwood Avenue
Roseville, MN 55113

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chair
The Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

As a concerned parent and community member, I am writing to urge the FCC to consider the needs of children when clarifying the Children's Television Act (CTA).

I am most concerned about the regulatory loopholes which permit stations to include purely commercial programs such as "The Jetsons" and "The Flintstones" in program time that is to be set aside for educational purposes.

We need to set aside at least one hour per day of specifically designed educational programming on all television stations. As mentioned above, we cannot allow commercial programs to be reclassified as educational.

In addition, the children's programming must air after 6:00 a.m. and before 10:00 p.m. It is absurd to think that children will be up in the middle of the night watching educational programs.

Please take a stand for children when your commission meets on October 16th. Resist the temptation to acquiesce to the demands of the television industry. Parents and children alike need your help to clean up the airwaves!

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Linnea Tani

MWB

7079 Snow Apple
Clarkston, MI 48346
October 9, 1995

Mr. Reed Hundt
Chairman, Federal
Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing to express my concerns about the quality of children's television programming. I believe the Children's Television Act needs to be strengthened by adding the following:

1. Require the following for "educational programming":
 - Programming that has education as a "significant purpose"
 - Programs that air between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
 - Programs that are regularly scheduled and of substantial length (at least fifteen minutes)
 - Written statements provided by stations on the educational objectives and the child audience targeted by the programming

2. Require stations to identify educational children's programming when it airs to assist parents in choosing these shows.

3. Mandate that stations air a minimum of an hour a day of educational shows for children.

I am appalled at what passes for "children's television" today. People wonder what happened to "family values" and why children place no value on anything today, including human life; is it really so hard to understand? Look at what we provide for them. Many children spend their entire days in front of a television (tragic in itself, I know, but true). Please help provide them with something of value. Television has the potential to touch so many lives; let it be in a constructive way, one that will benefit not only the children but the entire society.

Sincerely,


Debra Sabo

MMB

October 11, 1995

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chair
The Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Hundt and Members of the FCC:

I am writing to you as a parent and a taxpayer in regard to the Children's Television Act, which you are currently reviewing.

I strongly urge you to strengthen CTA. Study after study has proven that children are affected by what they see on TV. Yet, for the most part the industry has been unresponsive to the concerns of parents and the community at large. It is time the TV industry is sent a strong message that they do have a responsibility to the children of this nation.

First, you need to provide the TV industry with clear definitions of "educational" and "informational" programs for children and provide guidelines for what constitutes a "sufficient" amount of programming, and how parents can find information about quality programming. These definitions and guidelines should be developed with input from parents, educators, and experts on child development.

All TV stations should be required to air at least one hour per day, between 6a.m. and 10p.m., of children's educational and informational programming as delineated by the above mentioned definitions and guidelines.

This is not censorship. It is simply pressure to force an industry to meet its responsibilities that it has refused to meet voluntarily. The children of this country need all the help they can get to grow up to be healthy, responsible citizens. The whole community must help in this effort and the TV industry is definitely part of the community at large.

I hope you will take these recommendations seriously. Parents and their children are counting on you. Thank you for your time and this opportunity to have input in this process.

Sincerely,



Patricia J. Anderson
70 Wyldewood Rd.
Easton, CT 06612

10/15/95

Michael & Carol Stein
3627 Admiralton Dr
Bridgeton, Mo 63044

AMB

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chair
The Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

TO Members of the Committee

- The FCC should:
- Set a standard of at least 1 hr per day of specially-designed educational and information programming on all TV. Station; (the FCC propose five hours per week).
 - Redefine its definition of "educational & information" programming in order to close the regulatory loophole which permit stations to cite programs such as "the Jetsons" and "the Flintstones" on their license renewal applications.
 - Count only standard length, regularly-scheduled educational programs as meeting a station's "core" programming obligations under the Act;
 - Exclude programs aired before 6:00am or after 10:00pm from counting toward the core requirement of children's programming.

Sincerely

Michael & Carol Stein