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August 14, 1996

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MMB ENFORCEMENT COMPLAINTS & INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communication Commission

Dear Mr. Hundt:

- RE: I. Appreciation For Your Efforts to:
  - A. Secure educational TV programming for children
  - B. Respond to Apple Computer's petition for unlicensed wireless digital communications
- II. Political Campaigns and Radio Frequencies to Serve the Public

I. A. Secure Educational TV Programming for Children

I want to thank you and FCC Commissioner Susan Hess for your sustained efforts to secure agreement from commercial TV broadcasters, that they must provide three hours of educational TV programming a week for children, as a condition for renewing their TV station licenses.

When I learned that the broadcast industry had not fulfilled the education requirements of the Children Television Act of 1990, I concluded that this was a rejection of a key family value - children's education. Subsequently I was surprised that Commissioner Rachelle Chong opposed mandating specific numerical hours as antiethical to the First Amendment; and Commissioner James Quello questioned whether the proposed education mandate could establish a dangerous precedent to First Amendment rights in the future. On further reflection I now believe that Rachelle Chong and James Quello should also be thanked: first for their initial concern, and subsequently, their full support for the mandated three hours per week of educational TV broadcasting for children.

It was encouraging to see both President Clinton, and 220 members of the Republican-dominated House of Representatives support the Commission's unanimously adopted recommendation. Most of the other industrialized nations have government sponsored networks which provide considerable educational programming. The business community in this nation has increasingly noted the failure of the educational systems to provide sufficiently trained graduates to maintain America's superiority in the global economy. American students competing in international scholastic contests have, during the last decade, dropped to a current low ranking of 14th in math and science.

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Mr. Reed Hundt  
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Thus the business sector would appear to have a self-serving interest by providing educational broadcasting - see enclosure #1 UNQUALIFIED MESS.

I. B. Respond to Apple Computer's Petition for Unlicensed Wireless Digital Communications

I also want to thank you for the civic leadership role you assumed when Apple Computer petitioned FCC to release a portion of the radio frequency spectrum for unlicensed digital communication.

Apple Computer's leadership also merits recognition for conceiving the "N11 Band" for national information infrastructure. Public agencies such as schools, libraries, health centers, etc. will be able to get onto the information highway without having to pay for commercial wires to hook up their computers. They will pay only for the Internet service itself.

A most significant feature about this development is that the citizens of lower income communities who cannot afford the costs of getting on the information highway will have opportunities to participate in this adventure. Equally significant is the willingness of FCC to forego the money it could have secured by auctioning these frequencies to commercial interests.

FCC should also be commended for securing public comment regarding Apple Computer's proposal. This is truly a generous, democratic gesture and confirms the view that the radio spectrum belongs to the citizens whose views are still considered important by FCC.

Sincerely,



Dave Friesen  
1403 North Pacific Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91202  
(818) 240-9809

Enclosures

*This is a copy of my letter <sup>use of</sup> ~~protecting~~ frequencies.  
I AM SENDING THIS FOR INFORMATION ONLY July 24, 1996.  
AND NOT REQUESTING YOUR INTERVENTION*

Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
D.C. 20554  
Reference No. SP-96005  
Advisory Committee Informal Working Group 2A

Dear Sirs;

We recognize the interest other services have to secure the use of 144-148 and 420-450 MHz frequencies. This memo is to acquaint you with an important function regarding the use of these frequencies which may not be communicated to you--their use in emergency disaster services. There were 3 significant developments in Emergency Disaster Services during the late 80s and early 90s in Southern California which included: the exclusive use of these frequencies, considerable costs to purchase new radio equipment, and install separate communication facilities.

#### 1. American Red Cross

As the RC Chapters increasingly involved other agencies in their disaster work-- Police, Fire, Hospitals, Salvation Army, Child and Family Care etc. the Chapters had to expand their communications program. Most of the work was conducted by amateur radio operators using their own equipment. But as the communications requirements continued to increase, the Chapters raised funds for equipment and installing separate communication facilities.

The amateur operators had used 2 meter and 70 centimeter frequencies exclusively and the RC Chapters adopted these frequencies too because all of the other disaster services were using them. One of the most important features of a disaster program is to have a common frequency.

Regular drills have been conducted in which city departments, and voluntary agencies participate. (see enclosed item #1)

#### 2. Government Developments

During this same period Los Angeles and all of the other larger cities in the area worked closely with local amateur radio operators to establish disaster communication services. In this development too, funds were secured to purchase equipment and stock separate communication facilities.

#### 3. United Way of Los Angeles

United Way convened meetings with its member agencies to review their disaster programs. This group also quickly recognized that communication was a key function in California where earthquakes can readily knock out telephone services.

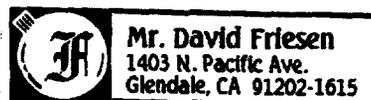
Since the RC and the public departments had adopted the 2 meter and the 70 centimeter frequencies, there was an obvious choice to follow suit and develop an integrated network of all available resources to deal with future disasters. (SEE ENCLOSED ITEM #2)

#### Concern

The infringement of other services in the use of the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands could jeopardize the vital Emergency Disaster Services.

*Sincerely,*

*David Friesen*



# Unqualified Mess

7-2-86 LA TIMES

## Firms Fear Lack of Competent Workers Will Affect Survival

From Bloomberg News Service

NEW YORK

**I**t seems you just can't find good help these days if you're a small-business owner.

Take the new employee Ken Heller asked to arrange a batch of files in chronological order. She couldn't. "She didn't know what 'chronological' meant," said Heller, the owner of a Denver environmental services firm.

Plenty of small businesses have similar problems, according to a survey released recently by National Small Business United, a Washington-based group Heller chairs, and consulting firm Arthur Andersen's Enterprise Group, which works with small and mid-size firms.

The survey of 966 small-business owners found that 24% thought a lack of qualified workers was a threat to their firms' growth and survival. That's up from 13% three years ago.

"It's a really mega-issue," said Nancy Pechloff, managing director of the Enterprise Group. "I see this as the limitation to the growth of this sector."

The economy's steady growth, with unemployment at 5.6% in May, doesn't make matters easier, Heller said. Several regions of the country have reported localized labor shortages, including Colorado and Michigan.

The heart of the problem is the fact that many workers lack the basic English and math skills to handle their jobs, Heller said.

"It's a problem with the educational system," he said. "You're talking about training at a basic level."

Businesses should get involved with their local public schools as a way of addressing the problem, said Robert Tate, a policy analyst

**'It's a really mega-issue. I see this as the limitation to the growth of this sector.'**

NANCY PECHLOFF  
Managing director, Enterprise Group

for the National Education Assn., the nation's largest teachers union.

"We're interested in working with business and other sectors to help improve student achievement," he said.

"We do take exception to the unqualified bashing of public schools as failures. The evidence is just not there to support it," Tate said, adding that that's not meant to deny the need for improvement.

Small businesses often find it hard to

compete for more qualified workers, Heller said. "Small business gets the leftovers in the work force. We don't have the benefits big business has."

Yet among small businesses—which the survey defined as those with fewer than 500 employees—the smallest were less likely to complain of a lack of qualified workers.

The typical firm complaining of that problem had an average of 30 workers, and the firms for which it wasn't a concern had an average of 20.

The larger firms were also growing faster, which may explain why they run up against the issue of quality labor more often.

The firms complaining of the quality of their work force had average annual revenue growth of 5.4%, compared with average growth of 4.2% at those that did not complain about their workers.

Of those that complained about workers' qualifications, 88% planned to invest in worker training, compared with 71% at the other firms.

Small businesses haven't traditionally been enthusiastic about spending on training, Heller said, but "as reluctant as they are, and as much as it costs, who else is going to do it?"

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FCC MAIL ROOM

AUG 28 1996

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