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RM-9242

From: "Joseph D'Alessandro" <jdman@magpage.com>
To: A4.A4(FCCINFO)
Date: 8/12/98 12:13pm
Subject: ?

Why Won't the FCC Chairman Go on Radio?

It's interesting to note that while Mr. Kennard will talk to the LA Times (a well known mouth piece for the establishment) about the need for diversity in radio, he continues to refuse to even acknowledge requests for an interview on the subjects of diversity and micro power broadcasting by someone involved with a "Community" Radio station.

Mr. Kennard cannot use the excuse that the station is "unlicensed" (because it is!) It is often clear that high-level officials like Mr. Kennard feel that there is no media worthy of their time other than the networks. I must point out that President Clinton's former Drug Czar, Lee Brown, took the time out of his busy schedule to talk with the people who listen to our station and spent 1/2 hour "Live" from Washington DC. It appears that Mr. Brown understands something that Mr. Kennard seems to have forgotten and that is that Mr. Kennard's paycheck comes from the people of this country and that he is charged with operating the FCC in the interests of the public not the National Association of Broadcasters.

Perhaps if there's someone at the FCC who monitors this list, you might explain to Mr. Kennard that speaking with the LA Times and the NAB hardly constitutes "Diversity" and that as long as he refuses to talk to the people his pronouncements ring even more hollow than they appear to be.

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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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In the Matter of)
) RM-9242
Proposal for Creation of the Low Power FM)
(LPFM) Broadcast Service)

To: FCC / Mass Media BureauThe new wave of LPFM advocates might not aware that
their idea enjoyed a brief wave of public discussion 11 years ago. The following article was recently discovered by San Francisco Liberation Radio...

>From the New York Times, March 31, 1977, pg. C28:

WASHINGTON--There are more than 8,000 radio stations operating in the United States, a number that practically exhausts the available spectrum for AM and FM.

But it is possible to add thousands more around the country--hundreds more in each urban area--by opening new spectrum space for radio, Representative Lionell Van Deerlin, Democrat of California, told a gathering of broadcasters this week.

The major barriers to such augmentation of the broadcast structure are not technological, but rather political and economical, Mr. Van Deerlin said.

Mr. Van Deerlin, chairman of the House Communications Subcommittee, said that engineers on his staff have determined that a new system of low-powered FM stations could be established if Channels 67, 68 and 69 on the UHF television band were reallocated for radio.

This system would make possible as many as 450 new radio stations in every metropolitan area, stations that would be distinctly local because their signals would cover a radius of around 10 miles.

These stations could not be received on the FM radio sets that are now on the market, but their frequencies could be added to new sets at nominal cost.

Mr. Van Deerlin said the system of short-range stations would require 18 to 20 megahertz of spectrum, which could come from idle frequencies in the 40 megahertz land mobile reserve pool if not from UHF television.

In a speech on Monday to the National Association of Broadcasters, which is holding its annual convention here, Mr. Van Deerlin spoke of the expansion of radio as only hypothetical but as a possibility that should be considered with the eventual expansion of television through cable.

Whether a new system of short-range radio stations will ever

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come into being will depend on the establishment of an efficient spectrum management policy in this country, Mr. Van Deerlin said.

Although he emphasized that his outline for additional radio stations did not necessarily represent a "blueprint for the future," commercial broadcasters at the convention were somewhat shaken by it.

An infusion of thousands of small stations would increase competition for the established broadcasters and dilute their market.

But Mr. Van Deerlin noted that a benefit to broadcasters from activating a new spectrum would be the probable elimination of the federal regulations for radio--especially those that restrict broadcasting in ways that newspapers and magazines are not restricted.

The basis for those restrictions--a chief one of which is the fairness doctrine--has been the scarcity of broadcast outlets. Anyone with the financial resources may start a newspaper or publish broadsides, but the limited number of radio and television frequencies require federal licensing.

To open a new spectrum for radio, and to vastly increase the number of stations available, would be to eliminate the scarcity problem and consequently the rationale for regulation, Mr. Van Deerlin reasoned.

"Assuming we can make available the necessary spectrum, and assuming we can coordinate these uses with our neighbors--Canada and Mexico--the number of new air voices would be limited only by economic realities, as is the case with the print media," Mr. Van Deerlin said.

"Add to this the likelihood that more and more information will be moving over electronic communications channels, and there is no basis for a first amendment distinction between broadcast and the print media," he said.

Mr.D'Alessandro