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October 5, 1998

RF

Public Service Chief Martha Contee
U. S. Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, North West #254
Washington, D. C. - 20554

The enclosed Associated Press newspaper article appeared in our local newspaper on Thursday, October 1, 1998. After digesting the contents of this article, I am enlightened while being thoroughly confused concerning the FCC's extreme measures to solve a questionable "critical need" to hook up schools and libraries to the Internet.

How can you justify the Federal Communications Commission's creation of the Schools and Libraries Corporation?

How can you justify the Federal Communications Commission's creation of the E - Rate Program?

By what authority does the Federal Communications Commission levy federal taxes?

According to the enclosed article, the National Cable Television Association has embarked on a worthwhile goal to wire all of our public libraries nationwide to the Internet.

In addition, the cable industry is in its second year of providing our nation's schools with high-speed hookups to the Internet.

More important ... much more important the National Cable Television Association ... that is the cable industry is providing the nation's school and library hookups to the Internet free of charge.

Now after grass roots pressure on our U. S. Congress, the Federal Communications Commission was forced to reduce the original tax of 5 percent of our monthly telephone bill by 43 percent. We now demand a further reduction ... say 57 percent!

Donald E. Graham

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Cable TV to wire libraries

The industry goal is to connect all public facilities nationwide to the Internet.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The cable TV industry plans to provide the nation's public libraries with free high-speed connections to the Internet.

The goal is to wire all public libraries nationwide — estimated at 14,000 to 15,000 — National Cable Television Association spokeswoman Torie Clarke said Wednesday. But she did not know how many public libraries would be wired in the program's first year.

The program builds on a 2-year-old cable industry initiative to provide the nation's schools with high-speed hookups to the Internet for free. So far, more than 2,500 schools have been connected.

The cable industry plans to wire public libraries as local cable companies roll out high-speed Internet and data services in their service areas.

In addition to wiring the libraries, the cable industry will give libraries powerful devices called cable modems that link personal computers to cable TV lines.

The NCTA estimated that by the end of 1999, high-speed cable services will be available in about 700 cities. That's a nearly tenfold increase from the 68 cities first targeted in 1996.



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Public Service Chief Martha Contee

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