



DIPLOMATES OF AMERICAN BOARD OF UROLOGY

Reply to:

Dr. Ayres
Daytona Beach

November 21, 1998

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Federal Communications Commission
Magalie Salas, Commission Secretary
Room 8332, FCC Building
1919 "M" Street, N. W.
Washington D.C. 20554

**Re: Commentary Regarding
Proposed Rule Making Docket No. 98-143
FCC Point #24 - Morse Code Requirements**

Robert C. Youngman, MD
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Dear Sirs:

I personally suggest that Morse Code requirements for Amateur Radio licensing be **eliminated entirely**; or if not eliminated reduced to five words, or less, to meet minimal international standards; for **General class operators on worldwide bands**.

The Commission should not perpetuate and require proficiency in a 1844 technology which really has no real relevant effect on the ability to operate a efficient licensed amateur radio station. This is like requiring one year of Latin to obtain a High School diploma!

The Commission should allow greater role to the Volunteer Examiners in the examination process, particularly regarding Code examinations imperfections or minimal mistakes.

I agree with most of the ARRL proposals except the degradation of descriptive classes of amateur to A - B - C. Have we forgotten our English language?

In summary, changes are long overdue. Amateur Radio should examine their dwindling ranks, graying heads, "Silent Keys", archaic rules and streamline the licensing process to attract our youth to Amateur Radio as well as the Internet, e-mail, cell phones, computers and digital technology.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Ayres MD (KE4ZBV)

cc.. Daytona Beach Amateur Club

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