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Before the  
**FCC MAIL ROOM**  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington DC 20554

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In the matter of	)	WT Docket 98-143
1998 Biennial Review	)	RM-9148
—Amendment of Part 97	)	RM-9150
of The Commission's	)	RM-9196
<del>Amateur</del> Service Rules	)	

To: Federal Communications Commission

COMMENTS OF Alan R Nelles, 4157 N Ozark Avenue, Norridge, IL 60634.

When I was a little boy, my parents raised me to believe that if I studied and did well in school, I would do well in life, I would be rewarded, I would be able to make a good living. So, I began learning electronics in grade school, building a Knight-kit Space Spanner regenerative shortwave receiver, listening to worldwide news broadcasts from stations such as HCJB in Quito Ecuador while the other kids were listening to popular songs like the "Flying Purple People Eater." I built Knight-kit walkie-talkies™ (low power, no license needed) which operated on CB channel 9. That is now the emergency channel so those same walkie-talkies™ are now potentially life-saving. In high school I became a Novice class Amateur Radio Operator, WN9NTF, then skipped the Technician class license and became General class licensee WA9NTF, contacting stations in Germany (DL8NC), Italy (I1BBJ), Brazil, Panama, Canada, and most of the states in the US. I was the highest paid student employee in the history of my high school (Ridgewood High School, 7500 W Montrose, Norridge, IL 60634), building and maintaining the

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electronic equipment that the other students used for learning. After high school, I earned the Advanced Class license and in 1985, Extra Class license AG9J, and worked a station in New Zealand. I did not neglect the commercial side, earning a First Class Radiotelephone license around 1968-1969. In at least one job I did, my supervisor (Leonard Walling of Aurora Avionics at Aurora Airport in Sugar Grove Illinois) told me that one of the reasons he hired me was because of amateur licenses. At another job in avionics, working for Vernon DeLap at Kenosha Airport in Kenosha Wisconsin, those licenses also qualified me. A man with experience in military avionics came around looking for a job but he was not hired while I was retained.

What my parents didn't tell me is that there are people who seek to get ahead by taking advantage of others, by trying to get what others have without doing the same work to get it, people who speak with a voice that is loud but also crooked, lazy, and stupid. There are people in government, people who are paid by us to serve us, who listen to those crooked, lazy, stupid people and rule in their favor instead of siding with us hard-working honest people. I have already been compromised by government people, years ago when they combined the First Class Radiotelephone license with the Second Class license into a new class called the General Radiotelephone License. It was that license I was issued when I sought to renew my First Class license. Now potential clients can't tell the difference between me and licensees who are literally second class by comparison unless I show them my expired First Class license. Second Class licensees can compete against me for the same jobs. I protested the FCC's plan to do that by writing to my Senator, Charles Percy, who became a millionaire and head of the Bell & Howell company by the time he was 29 years old. I thought he might understand achievement but

apparently he didn't because all I got back from him was a letter that said something like how he appreciates my opinions. He never did stop the FCC's proposed changes but when it looked like he might lose a subsequent election, he quickly went on television with campaign commercials saying how he has heard our voice, he has gotten the message. Re-election seemed to be his priority.

There has been much written in the Amateur Radio press about your proposed changes. A lot of it is self-serving by people who are in business selling Amateur Radio equipment, courses, magazines, books, and memberships and are simply trying to make more money by having more customers. They don't mind lowering the standards as long as they get rich. People like me who rose to meet the old standards are sacrificed in favor of those who wish to drag the standards down to their level.

If you, the FCC, are willing to sacrifice me also, then I hereby object to any lowering of standards including but not limited to reduction or elimination of CW code speed tests, theory tests, operating procedure tests, regulations tests, and testing fees. I regard the payment of fees as evidence that the applicant is serious about being a member of the Amateur Radio Service. Paying one's own expenses is an important character-building principle in business and in life, as I shall illustrate later. It gives the applicant enough incentive to be good enough at something to make money by working. It leads to responsibility and professionalism.

One excuse the FCC uses for the proposed changes is that it doesn't have the money to pay the staff necessary to administer the tests that have been required and must therefore reduce the number of tests and rely on volunteers. This is an argument that has been arrived at because of false

assumptions and mismanagement in the past. The FCC has overlooked sources of revenue and undercharged violators. For example: When the national speed limit of 55 miles per hour was enacted, CB radio experienced a boom as truck drivers led the nation at the practice of using CB to see where the police are. Complaints to the FCC about interference were caused mostly (about 80% as I recall) by CB operators using overmodulation, illegal frequencies, and illegal equipment such as linear amplifiers. My own customers were affected, and I had to respond to complaints that their television, telephone, radio, stereo, and intercom equipment was receiving interference. Some people who knew that I am an Amateur Radio operator suspected that I was causing their interference. The proper solution to this problem would be for the FCC to increase CB licensing fees, enforcement, and confiscation of the illegal equipment so that the people causing the problem would pay for it. Instead, the FCC made the CB license free and later decided that no CB license was needed at all, leading to the present sorry state of CB. Another way the FCC can raise money is to fine violators in the commercial TV and radio broadcasting business, including cable TV companies for the obscenity and profanity they broadcast. "Narrowcast", the cable TV companies will say, yet because their signals are carried to their head ends via terrestrial microwave and satellites, they are broadcasting. Therefore they should be under FCC control. I warned Chicago FBS television station WYCC-TV channel 20 personnel in person that I witnessed an episode of their series "The Computer Chronicles" being produced live at a trade show, that it contained profanity by host Stewart Cheifet and his guest (a redheaded woman named Kikki), and that I would formally object if they broadcast that profanity. I have not yet seen that show broadcast but they did broadcast something worse, an episode

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called "License To Kill" of the so-called documentary series "P.O.V." containing the worst kind of profanity, repeated over and over, on November 14, 1998. I saw that show because I had tuned in NBC's "Saturday Night Live" looking for a good laugh but was offended by it so I began changing channels to see what else was on television when I came to WYCC channel 20. I was appalled at what I heard and as I went to get my pencil and paper to document the event, the profanity got worse. A convict named Jeffrey Swinford was using the F and MF words and as the show was ending, it played telephone answering machine messages saying things like "F\_\_\_ up the A\_\_\_, you will F\_\_\_\_\_ cook." As the program was ending, the announcer asked "Are teens growing up too fast? Find out on another Point Of View, Monday at nine thirty." In another form of electronic communication today, on the Internet, children can find pornography in as many as one million sites, according to the Quentin Road Bible Hour Magazine (60 Quentin Road, Lake Zurich Illinois 60047) on page 34. Before you tell me that you have no jurisdiction over the Internet because it is a computer network and nobody controls it (a favorite argument of the pornographers, criminals, satanists, etc who operate there), I remind you that it is implemented over telephone lines, which the FCC does control. When I see telephone and cable TV companies buying each other in deals worth billions of dollars, I conclude that there must be some money in there somewhere that the FCC can get somehow, to be used for enforcement of existing laws about pornography (especially child pornography), obscenity, profanity and crime. Quit making excuses. If current laws are weak or non-existent for the cause, get that other branch of the government to make some new laws. That's what we pay you people for. You're here to serve us, not the other way around. We're your boss. If you can't do the job, we can get some-

body else who can do the job. I want the problem solved and I am part of the solution, not part of the problem. I don't want to be blamed and then punished. Put the blame on those responsible and then punish them. Your proposed changes blame the innocent, reward the guilty, lower the standards, and contribute to the "dumbing down" in our nation.

The FCC is attempting to defraud me out of something that I bought and paid for with my test fees and what I spent for equipment, books, and other study materials. I earned it, I paid for it, it is mine. You can't have it without the best fight I can put up and I still have some tricks up my sleeve in case you do the wrong thing. Even the time I spend writing this letter has a value, since I make my living by selling my time to my clients. I could and should be doing other things now, like maintaining equipment or designing and building new equipment. I do have new products in the works and can prove it, if I have to, by the testimony of my patent agent.

On the John Ankerberg TV show for Sunday September 20, 1998 at 10:30 pm central time on WJYS-TV channel 62, guest Chuck Missler was commenting on the Year 2000 tribulation that is expected to come and he said "If there is a radio ham in your neighborhood, get to know him." He went on to say how radio amateurs are a link to what is going on in the world. I agree with him and considering how serious that situation could be, who would you want to depend on to help you with life-and-death matters? Would you want an Amateur Radio operator who passed everything the FCC presented him with, or would you want somebody who whined about everything the FCC presents? You, the person reading this letter right now, might need me or someone equally qualified someday. The life of you or a loved one may depend upon it. Consider how information came out of the former Yugoslavia via Amateur Radio during

the recent war between Serbians and their various neighbors. Now multiply the importance of that many times until you get a product equal to the importance of a similar communications need in our own nation, then ask yourself again. Who would you want on your side, me or someone who belongs on the CB band?

For those who say the current Amateur Radio licensing tests are too hard, I now offer the stories of Samuel Lewis, KB9TYP, and Sarah Bruno, KB9SEG, who both got Novice licenses at the age of four. Sam upgraded to Technician Plus before he turned five on June 1. You can read about them in 73 magazine, July 1998 issue, page 85. On the cover of 73 for September 1998 is a picture of Rebecca Rich, KBOVVT, the youngest Extra class licensee in the United States. She is 8 years old. Those complaining about how hard the tests are cannot even compete with these children. Why then should the FCC even consider such complaints?

When I ride on Chicago Transit Authority buses lately, I notice that a new radio system is being installed and I hear Morse code sequences. When I watch real police shows on television (not actor police), I hear Morse code sequences coming over their radios. As an instrument pilot, I can tell you that a pilot is **REQUIRED** by FAA regulations to identify a navigation station being heard from his speaker by its Morse code identifier and **CANNOT LEGALLY RELY ON THAT STATION** unless and until he has done that. We therefore need more people, not fewer people, who are familiar with Morse code, to maintain this equipment upon which public safety depends. People who say that Morse code is not relevant don't know what they are talking about. The principles of CW on-off keying are incorporated into telemetry used in many kinds of instrumentation, especially remotely controlled equipment such as aerospace

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and military equipment. Our nation's leadership in these areas depends upon having qualified people. The more qualified they are, the better. The military already accepts those with only a grade school education. Do we really want that standard to decline?

Respectfully Submitted by:



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