

I'm Steve Day, a radio and television broadcaster for 30 years. I'm currently working for Infinity Broadcasting in Washington, D.C. on WARW.

I traveled to Charlotte, NC from California and spoke at the Localism meeting on October 22nd to inform the FCC that I have been a part of the changes in radio that occurred in 1987 after the demise of the Fairness Doctrine. Satellite radio companies and syndication proliferated. Local owners sold stations or fired local announcers due to "live programming" delivered by satellite.

I was one of those announcers from Los Angeles working for Transtar, which became United Stations which eventually became WestWoodOne which is managed by Infinity broadcasting.

In 1996, The Telecommunications Act allowed stations to be acquired by major companies as they postured for control of "Broadband". The FCC has failed to hold these businesses accountable for the lack of local content.

They use The Hub and Spoke system. It's simple. The Hub represents the main source of news and the information is sent by phone line/STL/microwave to other stations owned and the local info is controlled by a computer interface.

I was asked to Program in this way in 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002. Thousands of stations are left alone from Friday PM to Monday AM. I have contacted Homeland Security because EAS is a joke.

Public files are being updated feverishly right now by Infinity stations. Fine them for that and not keeping stations in the city of license, to name two possibilities.

You were a joke to the corporations until you actually started fining them for indecency.

Music- As music director I could never, ever add a local artist. It must be approved by the Corporate Consultant.

You must take back your authority and follow through with punishment. When did the Frequency Spectrum become more for the Corporate instead of for the Public? That's why Congress must reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. That would be the catalyst that would be the Father of Localism.

I have written songs but I write to you as a manager of program director in Winter Haven, Daytona Beach, Fla., Winston-Salem, N.C., Ventura and Santa Barbara, Ca.

Prior to 1987 I was responsible for the local programming.

After 1987 and especially after 1996, regional and national consultants were responsible for programming local stations.

I work for a station in Washington, D.C. and local bands are NOT allowed on the air whatsoever.

I know that I would have to apologize to musicians that the station would not be able to play their music even though they were the most popular group in the city.

My GM or consultant would tell us that was the way it was.

The Congress is responsible to give you the parameters to follow and police. So, in my opinion Clear Channel for instance should not be able to bundle their stations into one building but leaving transmitters in the city of license. This is a threat to Homeland Security. One explosion and 6 stations go off the air.

A newsperson must be present at every station period, 24 hours a day period.

Arbitron must be made to survey listeners for the overnight hours then they would be important to companies again. American citizens are left alone at night even though they hear programming.

Do what you did to MA Bell. Make a lot of little baby Bells.

Competition in radio and TV is quite the joke due to major owners dictate programming amongst themselves. If a company owns 6 stations they will all be different formats and sell them to sponsors as a "Group" at a "group" rate. Pushing out any competitors. The small station can't make enough money to stay in business.

The national norm should include the Fairness Doctrine. That would normalize the playing field instantly. But Congress must pass that.

The FCC could then enforce it.

As in the paragraph above, you can enforce the 1934 rule that stations have to check in. You could fine stations that don't or in 75% of the small and medium markets no one is there. The computer would have to check in.

Plus there is no-one to run the EAS test. The system in place now DOES NOT WORK. Let me repeat that. IT DOES NOT WORK. EBS worked much better. Stations were held accountable prior to 1987.

Local news, weather, traffic and sports by local announcers.

Each station must offer a local show daily discussing local issues from diverse sources during pre-Mid to 6am hours.

This would mean that each station would have to employ announcers again though.

Local station building must stay in the city of license and local phones must employ someone to respond to citizens.

Local music stations should again be allowed to research their listening area for popular local groups.

Yes. These national contests that take the 110th national caller should be eliminated it's just the corporate way of not having to program locally.

Why should any local station have to compete with other listeners?

Does the FCC monitor stations?

Is there an enforcement arm of the FCC?

Is there anyone other than lawyers employed by the FCC?

I suggest you employ broadcasters to be policed by them. Former announcers would be an excellent source.

Fine the corporations not announcers.

It's the corporate that allows the announcer to say what is said and done.

You fine the corporation and the corporate will make sure the announcer raises the bar to the highest denominator.

Case in point: February 2004 Infinity announcers were informed by phone call that any language that even hinted of the foul nature would be suspended.

Good for you. The FCC raised itself from the impotent category.

I worked for WestWood One radio networks from 1993-1998. Live product delivered to thousands of stations.

Even though we were not "local" at the "local" station, at least it was live information.

Now they are implementing "Voice tracking" or recording so-called "live" sounding information to these markets all to save money.

The cost of doing will go down and WestWood One stock will go up.

***Re-instate the Fairness Doctrine.

FCC--

Imagine you are driving on the freeway after landing in Portland, Maine and there's a jam in front of you. You search for news on your favorite station and you can't find any because the news is delivered by newsmen in a city 100 miles away. They don't have the information you need to be informed.

You even try "searching" for the strongest signal but the Frequency Spectrum has been corrupted by too many frequencies jamming some of the AM band.

The Fairness Doctrine must be re-instated by Congress and then you'd have rules to enforce. It's FCC 101.

The FCC has to get out more. Obviously no one has ever visited a station and talked to announcers since 1974. I've never an FCC employess unless they were checking a station's technical aspects and logs etc.

If you want to see National playlists look up www.radioandrecords.com and click on formats. The national playlists are there.

Break up Clear Channel, Infinty, Radio One Emmis, Sinclair etc.

Re-instate the Fairness Doctrine and make Local Public Awareness of issues more important. Enforce the completion of the Public File.

Low power FM's are a joke and a waste of the frequency spectrum.

I want to thank you for reading what has been my view of the radio and TV industry for 30 years.

The Congress has tied the FCC's hands and give free reign to the corporate person. I support an increase of your budget from the Commerce Committee.

The Fairness Doctrine would give weight to enforcement and would hold corporations to a higher standard of public trust.

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