

MB Docket No. 09 – 143

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FCC:

We have reached a troubling time in radio history. I am responding to the Music First Coalitions, concerns regarding broadcasters and “The Performance Rights Act”. As a 25 year radio veteran, I have never seen a more blatant abuse of the use of the public license granted by the FCC, as in the case of the misinformation disseminated by the NAB and Radio One.

I would like to submit specific examples of first hand experience regarding misinformation and a silencing of public opinion and democracy in recent months regarding the PRA.

- **Radio One** Founder, Cathy Hughes has aired over 5,000 “public service announcements” on 53 stations in 16 markets. The so called “PSA’s” run 2:00 to 3:00 minutes with a value well over 3 millions dollars. The information in these announcements are totally false, quoting numbers and facts that are solely meant to mislead the listener. Hughes, claims that HR 848, would “end” black radio, where in truth over 80% of black radio stations would pay royalties less then \$5,000 dollars a year. Radio staffers have been reprimanded and threatened if they are support of the Bill. Syndicated Gospel Host, Yolanda Adams in July of 2009, went on air in support of HR 848, and had to retract her opinion with threats of being fired.
- **AURN** President, Jerry Lopes on two specific occasions has stopped interviews with opposing view points. Syndicated talk show host, Bev Smith was not allowed to air an interview with singer Dionne Warwick, after show producer (B Titus) was informed by Cathy Hughes, opposing view points would never make air. Jerry Lopes, cancelled the interview and informed employees the PRA, was off limits.
- **Bobby Jones**, legendary Gospel artist and performer was also reprimanded and threatened by AURN President Jerry Lopes. Jones, a performer recorded a commercial for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee, in support of the PRA. When Lopes found out about the spot, Jones was also threatened that his syndicated Gospel show would no longer air after 10 successful years

Working in radio for most of my life, I have learned of numerous power moves that have limited the discussion, to a broadcaster only angle. While these owners are licensed to serve their local communities, it is obvious they now are only serving share holders.

I do have a list of names and specific references to share if the FCC, might be interested in taking much needed action. The actions of NAB members, Radio One, AURN continue to be a bad chapter for broadcasters expanding their realm while abusing their duty to serve the local communities they are licensed to serve.

Justice,

Paul Porter

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