



WASHINGTON REPORT

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTERS

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FILING DATE EXTENDED FOR COMMENTS ON UHF ALLOCATION PLAN

On Jan. 29, the FCC extended the date of filing comments from February 3 to April 3, and from April 3 to June 3 for replies, in the proceedings on fostering expanded use of UHF television channels (Docket 14229) and allocation of UHF channels for regular airborne educational TV operation (Docket 15201). The further extension was requested by the NAEB and MPATI jointly, and by petition by the Ga. State Board of Education. The request for extension stated: "...we are of the opinion that the benefits to be derived from the material which petitioners propose to submit is such as to warrant an extension of time, and that the additional time requested is reasonable. However, we shall not grant additional extensions of time unless a most compelling situation arises."

NAEB BOARD CHAIRMEN ELECTED

Richard B. Hull, Director of Radio and TV Broadcasting at The Ohio State University, has been reelected Chairman of the full NAEB Board of Directors to serve until December 31, 1964. Also elected to one year terms as Board Chairmen were: Television Board - Robert Schenkkan, Director of Radio and Television at the University of Texas; Radio Board - Jack Summerfield, General Manager of WRVR, New York, N.Y.; Instructional Division Board - Charles McIntyre, Coordinator of Instructional TV at the University of Illinois; and Individual Member Board - Albert P. Fredette, General Manager of WAMC, Albany, N.Y.

NEW YORK CITY REQUESTS CHANNEL 14 FOR EDUCATION

In a petition filed before the FCC on January 13, the Educational Broadcasting Corporation of New York requested rulemaking on the assignment of Channel 14 to the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut metropolitan area for non-commercial, educational use. The proposed main studio would be in New York City with the transmitter at the Empire State Building. Since the Channel 14 antenna would be two and one-half miles less than the required separation from television station WWOR-TV, Channel 14, in Worcester, Mass., the petitioner has requested a waiver of the rule to permit the filing of an application.

PACIFICA LICENSES GRANTED

On Jan. 22, the FCC granted applications to the Pacifica Foundation for (1) license renewals of KPFA (FM commercial) and KPFB (FM non-commercial education), Berkeley, Calif., and WBAI (FM commercial), New York City, and (2) initial license of KPFK (FM noncommercial educational), Los Angeles; and (3) transfer of control of Pacifica from its Executive Membership to a board of directors.

In granting the applications, the Commission stated: "We recognize that as shown by the complaints here, such provocative programming may offend some listeners. But this does not mean that those offended have the right, through the Commission's licensing power, to rule such programs off the airwaves. No such drastic curtailment can be countenanced under the Constitution, the Communications Act, or the Commission's policy...we are charged under the Act with 'promoting the larger and more effective use of radio in the public interest'...and, obviously, in the discharge of that responsibility, must take every reasonable precaution to avoid inhibiting broadcast licensees' efforts at experimenting or diversifying their programming."

To the charge which had been issued that the applicants were members of the Communist Party and were using their stations as instruments of that Party, the Commission asserted that "on the basis of information obtained from Government sources, the Foundation, and our own inquiry, we do not find any evidence warranting further inquiry into the qualifications in this respect of Pacifica Foundation."

LOS ANGELES ETV RECEIVES CP AND HEW GRANT

The FCC, on Jan. 27, authorized a CP for TV Channel #28 to Community Television of Southern California to provide the first non-commercial educational television service to the greater Los Angeles area. Also, HEW assisted with a grant of \$468,790, awarded under the ETV Facilities Act.

FCC Chairman Henry commented that "community and educational leaders in Los Angeles have worked diligently toward the development of educational television for their community and are to be commended for this result of their efforts." When Channel #28 comes into service in the LA area with its population of some 8 million, ETV will be available in all the major population centers of the nation.

FCC REPORT FOR SALE

The annual report of the FCC for the fiscal year 1963 is now on sale at the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for 50 cents a copy. The 170-page report notes developments since July 1, 1963 in such areas as satellite communication, broadcast, safety and special radio, monitoring and other field engineering, technical research, frequency allocation and use, and other subjects.

JCEB-NEA MEETING EMPHASIZES NEED FOR MULTIPLE CHANNEL ETV ASSIGNMENTS

A conference called by the Joint Council on Educational Broadcasting and the NAEB met in Washington, D.C., Jan. 27-28 to consider a National Policy for ETV Channel Assignments. It was the consensus of the conference that a greater proportion of the limited TV channels should be reserved for education and that multiple assignments to any community not be restricted as now proposed in Docket 14229 of the FCC.

The conference urged the Sec. of HEW to establish a Citizen's Commission augmented by small work-study teams of competent full-time technical personnel to make an intensive and continuing study to start immediately and to report, if possible, within the time provided by the FCC for Docket No. 14229 comments. This Commission would examine such topics as the relevancy of UHF-TV to community's educational, social and welfare needs, the economics of ETV, and technological questions pertaining to types of broadcast systems and their relationship to educational technology and the determination of functional broadcast areas.

A report of the Conference is being prepared at present by the NAEB.

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