



WASHINGTON REPORT

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTERS

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HOUSE APPROVES ETV FACILITIES FUNDS

On April 9, the House of Representatives passed the HEW supplemental appropriation bill which includes \$1,500,000 to implement the ETV Facilities Act of 1962. The Senate committee hearings on this bill have already been held and it is anticipated that the Senate will, within a week or two, approve an appropriation of \$2,000,000 and that a compromise of \$1,750,000 will result. The House bill provides \$75,000 for operation of staff and offices for ETV in HEW and USOE, with the balance for ETV grants. Although the appropriation is a supplement for the present fiscal year (ending June 30, 1963), the funds (except for the \$75,000 for operations) do not have to be expended or even committed by that date, but may be carried over into the next fiscal year.

RULES FOR MAINTENANCE LOGS

The FCC has issued the text of the rules on Transmitter Inspections, Maintenance Logs, and Automation which it proposes to put into effect May 10, 1963. However, it is understood that the Commission has received such extensive reaction to the proposed rules that they may call for official comments, in which case the effective date of any rules would probably have to be postponed as much as 90 days. The presently proposed rules would require all AM and FM stations to make transmitter inspections five times per week and would require all AM, FM and TV stations to maintain a third set of logs (in addition to present program and operating logs) to be called "Maintenance Logs." The proposed rules are so bulky that the FCC cannot honor requests for copies. However, they may be found in the Federal Register (which is available in most libraries) for Feb. 28, 1963 (#28-FR-1872), in case any wish to examine the rules and send reactions to the FCC. The NAEB will watch this situation and keep you advised.

HULL NAMED TO NEW GROUP

Richard Hull, NAEB Board Chairman and Director of the Telecommunications Center, Ohio State University, has been named to the Board of Directors of the new Committee for the Full Development of All-Channel Broadcasting (see Washington Report Vol. IV, No. 5, March 15, 1963). Three sub-committees have been set up within the overall committee: Committee on Technical Development, Committee on UHF Broadcast Station Operations, and Committee on Consumer Information. NAEB Vice President Harold Hill has been named to this latter committee.

NAEB SUPPORTS FLORIDA ETV PETITION

The NAEB is filing comments with the FCC in support of the Florida ETV Commission's Petition for Rule Making seeking to move Ch. 22 from Lakeland to Tampa, and to reserve Ch. 22 for educational purposes (through operation by the University of South Florida).

NAEB SUPPORTS NEW HAMPSHIRE ETV PETITIONS

The Univ. of N.H. has petitioned the FCC for Rule Making to reserve Ch. 45 in Keene, N.H., and Ch. 24 in Littleton, N.H., for educational use. The NAEB is filing comments in support of this petition. The Association has also filed comments in Docket No. 14979 opposing the FCC's proposal No. 1 to reclassify Ch. 20 in Hanover, N.H., as a non-reserved channel, and also opposing FCC's proposal No. 2 which would delete Ch. 39, now assigned to Glens Falls, N.Y. and reassign it to Lebanon, N.H., and delete Ch. 24 from Littleton, N.H. These latter comments are also in support of a petition by the University of New Hampshire.

NAEB FILES IN AIRBORNE MATTER

The NAEB has filed comments with the FCC supporting a request of Midwest Program for Airborne Television Instruction, Inc., for issuance of Notice of Proposed Rule Making to investigate matters relating to the use of UHF TV channels for airborne ETV instruction. However, the NAEB comments carefully point out that the Association "can take no position as yet on the merits of the controversy, nor can it take any position as to any of the questions raised in (Airborne's) Petition." The comments further pointed out that the NAEB is currently engaged in an electronic digital computer study to determine use of TV channels for airborne TV, and until this study is completed, the NAEB can take no position in this matter.

FCC GIVES UHF ANOTHER BOOST

The FCC has amended its rules (effective May 1) to ease UHF technical requirements: (1) transmitters may be operated by remote control, (2) the visual-aural ratio is widened to 10-1 -- present rules require aural power to be at least one-half visual power, (3) transmitters of 1 kw or less may operate without present requirement for specified reduction of sideband radiation, and (4) unrestricted use of directional antennas is permitted by stations with under 1 kw transmitter; over 1 kw transmitter may use directional antennas with a maximum to minimum radiation of up to 15 db (VHF stations still limited to 10 db).

FCC WOULD LIMIT USE OF CH. 37

To protect essential radio astronomy observations by the Univ. of Ill., the FCC proposed (March 27) to delete the availability of Ch. 37 for TV broadcasting until Jan. 1, 1968, within a 600-mile radius of Danville, Ill. Also, the FCC would hold in abeyance all TV applications for this channel from anywhere within the U.S. pending the outcome of this rulemaking proceeding which might necessitate a different temporary protection plan. Comments are due by May 1, 1963, and should not be directed to the general matter of frequency allocations for radio astronomy (already under consideration) but to interim protection of such operations at the Univ. of Ill. only. A number of educational reservations on Ch. 37, on a nationwide basis, were recommended in the NAEB's Spectrum Study.

MISCELLANEOUS FCC ACTIONS

Granted (March 21) a CP to the South Carolina ETV Commission, for a new noncommercial ETV station on Ch. *7; ERP 29.4 kw visual and 14.7 kw aural; antenna height 180 ft.

Granted (March 18) CP to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, Charlotte, N.C., for a new noncommercial ETV station on Ch. *42; ERP 233 kw visual and 130 kw aural; antenna height 400 ft.

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