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From: William E. Baker <welblpab@penn.com>
To: A7.A7(NETMSGS)
Date: 3/2/98 2:00pm
Subject: Comments to Commissioner Ness

William E. Baker (welblpab@penn.com) writes:

March 2, 1998

RE: RM-9208
RE: Petition submitted by J. Rodger Skinner, JR.
TRA Communications Consultants, Inc.

To Whom it may concern:

I would like to express my concern for a need for a low power FM radio service as is addressed in the above mentioned petitions before the FCC.

I do not completely agree with every part of either petition, but suggest the FCC do something immediately about an ever growing problem in our nation. First, I would like to reiterate the words I e-mailed to all FCC Commissioners earlier this year.

January 30, 1998
"Dear Commissioner,

I read with interest the Radio World article of February 6, 1998 entitled: "Kennard: A Dual View on Pirates" as well as the article propagating the views of the NAB against so called, "Pirate Radio."

Of course, any law-abiding person, could certainly not be in favor of any illegal operation.

But, in my view, this issue is something the Federal Communications Commission cannot put on the back burner. I've read estimates of between 300 and thousands of "pirate" stations on the air with many more to come.

I have been in broadcasting since 1959 and have seen so many changes. I remember for years the FCC limit on ownership for broadcast stations was (if memory serves correctly) 7 AM, 7 FM and 5 TV and certainly not more than one of each type of station in the same market. I have in front of me an article that was in the January 16, 1998 Erie (PA) Morning News..."Five Erie Radio Stations Could Be Owned By One Company." Three of those FM stations are 50,000 watts each! What has happened with the locally owned and operated radio stations. Where is the local voice of a community? Huge corporations are buying hundreds of radio stations and I really fear this is an unhealthy situation. The NAB opposed the old Class D, 10 watt FM station years ago, for their own political agenda, and those stations and a local voice, disappeared. But it doesn't make sense to me that we have hundreds (maybe thousands) of "translators" on the air today with 10 watts or even lower wattage.

Certainly something can be done to bring a low-wattage, FM radio service, one that is inexpensive to secure and build and not governed by the same rules as the "big boys." Also included should be the permissibility of daytime AM stations to use this type of service.

Please, Commissioner, make this an urgent matter that can bring such stations on the air legally soon. I'm sure none of us wants the illegality of the "pirate" stations that can bring interference to licensed radio services and certainly a big headache to the FCC and

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so many others.

Thank you for listening to my comments."

Then, I would like to quote these words from FCC Chairman William E. Kennard from his home-page dated 2/26/98.

"Finally, throughout all our proceedings, we must seek to ensure that our booming communications markets are creating opportunities for participation by ALL Americans. We must move forward to ensure that we are providing opportunities for employment, ACCESS and OWNERSHIP particularly for those who remain UNREPRESENTED in the OWNERSHIP and employment ranks of these businesses...minorities, women, the disabled." (All the words capitalized are mine for emphasis.)

Please, ladies and gentlemen...I urge you to quickly pass some sort of a rule-making that would legalize an FM radio service that the ordinary 'Mom and Pop' type of business could utilize in making available radio services to local communities. In our county, Warren County, PA, there are 3 radio stations...all owned by one individual corporation. There are other voices that need to be heard and can be afforded by the "little guy" of this great country of ours.

Sincerely Submitted,
William E. Baker
409 East Main Street
Youngsville, PA 16371

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