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From: "david kay" <vinylsolution@hotmail.com>
To: FCCMAIL.SMTPNLM("watc@npr.org")
Date: 8/10/98 3:02pm
Subject: weekend all things considered

I am writing in regards to FCC Chair William Kennard's recent appearance on NPR's "Weekend All Things Considered." According to Mr. Kennard, it is obvious that the increasing consolidation of power and wealth in the hands of fewer and fewer corporations limits people's access to the airwaves. He opines that "minority-owned" radio stations are in such short supply that something dramatic must be done.
But both he and host Daniel Zwerdling are guilty and must be held accountable for deliberately misleading the public about the current state of community radio broadcasting or, as the FCC usually calls it, pirate radio. Rather than encouraging communities to broadcast to their neighborhoods, the FCC has repeatedly used unconstitutional and fascistic tactics to silence these voices-- occasionally busting down people's doors and holding them hostage with guns drawn and Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces of 20 governmental officials-- while searching and seizing all radio broadcasting related equipment seized on the premises.
If Mr. Kennard is so committed to providing airwave access to neighborhoods and communities, there are a number of things he, as Chair of the FCC, can do immediately:

1. Compel the FCC to stop their reign of terror against microbroadcasters and the communities they serve.

2. Drop the lawsuits against the radio stations who are guilty of broadcasting without licenses.

3. Begin issuing licenses to the microbroadcasters that have recently been warned and/or shut down-- including Free Radio Berkeley, San Francisco Liberation Radio, KIND Radio, Steal This Radio, Black Liberation Radio, 87X, the Party Pirate, and innumerable others.

4. Dismantle the FCC and use the funds to create "Community Communications Commissions" or "State Communications Commissions" or anything which will allow for more community input and access.

5. Force the FCC to stop taking bribes and lobby money from the NAB, one of the most powerful and influential lobbies in the world.

By taking these simple steps, Mr. Kennard can prove that he understands the obvious deleterious effects the ever-increasing consolidation of power is having on redefining the political and cultural terrains. By forcing the major broadcasters-- those who profit most from the "public airwaves" --to acknowledge the importance of small cultural identities, he can ensure that free speech will continue well into the future.
As it is now, though, Mr. Kennard is as reliable a source as infamed liar Joe Isuzu. NPR, which has joined the NAB and the FCC in the ongoing war against microbroadcasters, is conspiring to keep the public dumb, out of touch, and in the dark.
We must revisit the 1996 Telecommunications Act which in "deregulating" the industry allows the biggest corporations to grow even bigger, more powerful, and more influential. The microbroad-casters are at the vanguard of the most important free speech fight of the present and future.
Without the help of the FCC, microbroadcasters will continue fighting this significant fight, but with the conspiracy of the major media networks, NPR, and the CPB, it is almost impossible to make the public aware of our noble and ongoing struggle.
"Let one thousand transmitters blossom." It's for our own good!

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Sincerely,

Mr. E (David Kay)

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