

Heads Up!

To kick down peoples' doors and confiscate their radio transmitters is the modern worlds' equivalent of censorship by book burning. To argue that the "airwaves" are a finite resource that must be "protected" is blatantly ignorant of the scientific fact that the electromagnetic spectrum is in reality infinite by its' very nature. The N.A.B. and their powerful corporate lobby are in reality much more concerned with the finite resource known as radio listeners.

Is it more important to ensure that free people have access to means of public communications that the constitution of our United States should protect for us? Or is it more important to ensure that corporate greed has access to our lawmakers to create laws that prohibit our freedom of speech?

The argument that micro-radio will degrade the value of existing radio licenses is totally irrelevant to the issue. It may be true within certain technical constraints, but it is a separate issue that can be addressed within the technical arena. In terms of politics and human rights, the technical issues are just subterfuge used to shroud the real issue in an impenetrable cloak of scientific jargon, but don't be misled.

The real issue is constitutional freedom of speech versus it's antithesis, corporate greed. The corporately owned radio establishment has reduced the use of the public "airwaves" to a formulaic repetition designed to appeal to the lowest common denominator of listenership. That is how they maximize dollar profits. By having the most powerful transmitters in a given radio "market" they can appeal to advertisers based on the numbers of their listeners. What the corporation least wants is for somebody to draw listeners away from their "market share" by offering intelligent and relevant programs that will actually appeal to quality-concerned listeners. It hurts their profits. That's all. Let's face it... there's a whole lot of advertising on the radio. That is what makes the whole thing profitable. Without listeners, the corporation cannot sell advertising. Without advertising, they are out of business.

So now the National Association of Broadcasters is lobbying hard in congress to prevent the passage of new legislation that is designed to make the "airwaves" more accessible to community groups and non-profit concerns. This is the first time in over twenty years that the FCC has moved in a direction that makes sense for the people. If we allow the N.A.B. and their allies in congress to block this legislation from passing, then we will have lost a major battle for the freedoms that this country's' constitution is predicated on.

Do we silently cower in our homes, listening to puke on the radio in fear of FCC paramilitary squads who will come and kick down our doors and take away our freedom? Or do we take the power back, and exercise our constitutional rights by letting the FCC know that we support the idea of mirco-radio? Right now they are willing to listen to us, but after the rules are set... it is their duty to enforce the law. How will it be?