

From Member:  
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Date: 10/24/99  
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Subject: Member # 8512 7568 1596 4858 ACLU

Corruption:

"Billy" Tauzin (R-LA) has supported the anticompetitive actions of the "Big Boy Broadcaster's" lobbyists (the National Association of Broadcasters, [NAB]) by opposing the "Low Power Radio Service" (LPRS) proposal [\*2] of the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). The LPRS [\*2] would create competition and variety by opening thousands of new legal frequencies (depending on how the rules end up getting written) on America's FM dial for new and new local voices to get on the air.

Tauzin has referred to the FCC as a "renegade" agency and is threatening "reorganization" and began investigating the reauthorization of the FCC immediately after dissenters (led by David Bonior (D-Mich)) in the House of Representatives publicly disagreed with Tauzin by supporting the

"Low Power Radio Service."  
Tauzin has publicly claimed that he is worried that "skinheads" would start radio stations.  
Tauzin has also expressed concern that civic radio stations would drain donations away from Public Broadcasting radio stations. [\*3] (see footnotes)

This would be the normal "newspeak" that politicians of all stripes are known to engage in; except that Tauzin is ruling on issues that affect the employer of his relatives ... classic nepotism.

Tauzin is the Chairman of the House Telecommunications Subcommittee. This is a subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee (which is chaired by Thomas Bliley (R-Va)).  
Tauzin theoretically represents the entire United States House of Representatives ... on

telecommunications (electronic media) issues. Indeed there are dissenters both in Congress and in the grassroots.

Tauzin theoretically then represents every American that voted for any member of the House of

Representatives ... on telecommunications issues.

Tauzin sets the agenda in his committee for any bills and investigations ... into telecommunications issues.

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) is a lobbying organization that represents the large corporate-chain radio stations ... on telecommunications (electronic media) issues.

The job of the NAB is to influence Congress (Tauzin, mostly) to create laws, investigations and agendas for discussion that are favorable to the concentration of control (and profits) of radio stations.

Tauzin therefore is a major lobbying target of the NAB to create favorable policies for the concentration of power and the deferment of consequences in order to constantly maximize profit.

HOW INTERESTING THEN THAT TAUZIN'S DAUGHTER WORKS FOR THE NAB!!

If this were a court of law, that would be like the prosecutor or a defendant's lawyer being the daughter of the judge!! An immediate mistrial would normally be declared. The judge would normally take himself out of such a case due to conflict-of-interest.

Republicans love free enterprise and free trade ... until its their buddies who have to compete!! Billy Tauzin, (R-LA) had an immediate and radical response when the FCC proposed addressing concentration of control of radio by opening up new frequencies for locals and new groups ... by threatening the FCC with "reorganization"!

And now two other Republicans have sent letters to the FCC telling Kennard to cheese-it or "it's hammer time!"

[READ MORE HERE]

Also read more here how the current consolidation is not good enough for those who would control everything you hear/see in the media!

Strategic Silence: Interestingly, the House Telecom Subcommittee is the subcommittee to the House Commerce Committee, chaired by (drum roll) Thomas J Bliley (R-VA)!! Bliley's staff has so-far

refused to express any public decision as to whether Bliley sees  
a  
problem with Tauzin's corruption. There have  
been several requests for Mr. Bliley to take a stand in support  
of  
the Low Power Radio Service especially  
considering the nepotism of his underling.

Double Standards: Bliley's silence becomes even more interesting  
when he has published  
a statement in support of Low Power TV stations that are  
recognized  
as often the only source of truly locally  
relevant programming. This statement is (almost verbatim)  
reiterating the points of the proponents of the Low  
Power Radio Service for Low Power Radio support.

Naked Exclusionary Racism: Speaking of skinheads. Conrad Burns  
(R-Mont)  
is  
quoted as agreeing with the National Association of Broadcasters,  
saying that we don't need all these little radio stations,  
"I've had about all the diversity I can stand."  
Conrad Burns is the Senate version of Tauzin. Burns is the chair of  
the  
Senate Telecommunications subcommittee, (of  
the Senate Commerce Committee, Chaired by John McCain (R-AZ)). It is  
amazing that they let him out in public with  
attitudes like that. Lucky for him, no major media other than trade  
journals such as the Public Broadcasting Report have  
reported on this.

This shows what the true motivation of their opposition to community  
radio is; they just finished bum-rushing "them" out  
the front door with the 1996 Telecom Act. The Low Power Radio  
Service  
proposes to let "those people" right back in.

Now the prices of radio stations are sky-high. The mergers are  
arranged  
so that anyone who wishes to advertise is given  
less and less real choice and competition and so the smaller  
businesses  
(and their customers) pay back the bank for the  
mergers. This is how the media moguls don't actually lose any money  
and  
it has the wonderful side effect of keeping  
"those" people out of the game.

Naked Power Grab: A merger between two communication's giants have  
to  
get past three

Federal agencies, the Federal Communications Commission (with President Clinton's appointment of Mr. Kennard, the first African-American Chairman ever), the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission (the last two essentially controlled by pro-corporate-power-concentration Republicans) (Bloomberg News 5/26/99) "Two influential Senators introduced legislation that would limit the U.S. Federal Communications Commission's authority to review mergers. The bill, sponsored by Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John McCain(R-AZ) and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-WA), would forbid the FCC from blocking a transaction that either the Department of Justice or Federal Trade Commission has cleared. "

The Federal Trade Commission is overseen by the Senate Commerce Committee (Chaired by Senator John McCain) and the Department of Justice is overseen by the Senate Judiciary Committee (Chaired by Senator Orrin Hatch).

Naked follow-through on retaliatory threat: Tauzin is the Chair of the House Telecom Subcommittee. This means that theoretically, he speaks to the FCC for all the Representatives and all the Americans that voted for all the Representatives on issues relating to electronic media. Tauzin as the Chair gets to set the agenda of investigations, pass or kill a proposed bill before the media ever get a chance to report on it, and in general hide his agenda or not as serves his interests. Twenty-seven members of the House of Representatives signed on to a letter by David Bonior (D-Mich) that supported the Low Power Radio Service proposals. On March 17th, the day after Bonior's letter in support went to the FCC with 26 other signatories, Tauzin began his "reauthorization" hearings for the FCC. McCain and Tauzin have openly stated that they thought that the FCC was a "renegade" agency and that they needed "restructuring".

Endorse FCC Docket MM 99-25 Real Community Radio.