

# Senate urged to restore space radio funds

The Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended the Office of Emergency Planning be given the funds it needs to avoid curtailing its telecommunications research program. The money would come from a \$1 million request for research and development that the committee said should be restored to the agency's budget.

Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.), a committee member, said the funds should enable the agency to be fully prepared for the International Conference on Space Communications, to be held in Geneva next year, and to begin studying the problem of how additional radio frequencies might be released for commercial use.

The committee, in reporting an omnibus money bill to the Senate last week, also recommended an appropriation of \$14,617,000 for the FCC, all that the commission requested for the fiscal year that began July 1.

In both cases, the committee went along with recommendations of its

Independent Offices Subcommittee, which is headed by Sen. Magnuson, who is also chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee. The subcommittee proposed restoration of \$1 million of the \$4 million the House slashed from the \$8 million OEP budget request, and the entire \$262,000 cut from the FCC's request (AT DEADLINE, Aug. 27).

In recommending the \$1 million replacement, the committee expressed concern over testimony of OEP officials that the House cut would eliminate all research and development carried on by the agency. It's "particularly important that the telecommunications function" of the OEP continue the appropriations committee report concluded.

**Magnuson Comment** ■ Elaborating on this last week, Sen. Magnuson said the U. S. is now "the pioneer in space telecommunications" but its "continued leadership" in this field could be limited by "a paucity of frequencies in the electromagnetic spectrum." He predicted intense competition among nations at the

Geneva conference for additional frequencies, adding, "it is imperative that the United States be represented there by a strong, expert and fully prepared delegation."

Sen. Magnuson said that Dr. Irvin Stewart, who is Director of Telecommunications as well as an assistant director of OEP, has advised him that to improve U. S. chances at the conference "we should step up the pace of our preparations."

In a report submitted to the senator on Aug. 16, Dr. Stewart also said that the "great congestion in certain parts of the spectrum, particularly in some of the high frequency bands . . . makes it imperative that the most effective use be made of every frequency assignment."

He suggested a general review of frequency usage and a study "of means for increasing effectiveness in the use of frequencies within the bounds of what is practical." He said additional staff would be needed to carry out this work.

NBC to dispose of WRCV-TV by Dec. 31 of this year.

In ordering the hearing, the FCC made Justice a party; two weeks ago, however, the Attorney General bowed out, declaring his department had nothing further to offer.

Philco also had asked that RKO's interest in KWTW be made an issue under the multiple ownership rules, since RKO currently owns four U. S. vhf tv stations and majority interest in CKLW-TV Windsor, Ont., which serves the Detroit area (FCC rules restrict ownership by one party to five vhf stations).

## NBC withdraws plea for new call letters

NBC changed its mind last week and asked the FCC to ignore a request for the call letters KPO-AM-FM for NBC's owned KNBC-AM-FM San Francisco (BROADCASTING, July 23).

The network has requested that the call letters of its Los Angeles station, KRCA (TV) be changed to KNBC (TV); since stations in different cities may not have the same call letters under FCC rules, the NBC request necessitates a change in the San Francisco designation. NBC asked for the call letters KNBR-AM-FM for the San Francisco radio stations.

## GLOBAL TV BLUE PENCIL BLUNTED

Administration says Meyers, memo has no 'standing'

The White House last week buried the idea that tv programs sent overseas should be censored. Other administration officials threw dirt on the coffin to show that the interment is permanent.

The official word on the Meyers' memorandum suggesting that some form of control be placed on tv programs going to foreign countries (BROADCASTING, Aug. 27) came on Aug. 30 when a White House spokesman told a congressman that no agency is contemplated that would supervise programs being transmitted overseas. This was the information relayed to Rep. Perkins Bass (R-N. H.), according to Mr. Bass. The New Hampshireman had earlier in the week written to the President asking that the Meyers' memo be made public. The document is the memorandum written by Tedson J. Meyers, administrative assistant to FCC Chairman Newton N. Minow.

The White House official who called Mr. Bass, it is understood, is Ralph A. Dungan, administrative assistant to President Kennedy.

The White House renunciation of the censorship viewpoint was emphasized later the same day when Pierre Salinger, President Kennedy's news secretary, told reporters that the Meyers' memo-

randum has no standing "whatever" in the government. It is not an official document, he said. He added that Mr. Meyers had written the recommendation as a private citizen, not as an official nor at the request of the FCC or any government agency.

About 100 copies were distributed, Mr. Salinger reported, and a few were sent to the White House. The President, Mr. Salinger said, probably will not even read it.

The President was asked about the document at his news conference Aug. 29. He replied that he had not seen it and could not comment on it until he had.

**Murrow No** ■ The nails were put into the censorship coffin by Edward R. Murrow, director of the U. S. Information Agency, even earlier in the week. In a speech to the annual convention of Amvets in New York Aug. 24, Mr. Murrow stated:

"There are occasionally from time to time well-meaning but misguided people who suggest that some agency of the government should exercise control over information or entertainment material shipped out of this country to foreign countries. I would like to say quite categorically that no responsible official