

FILMHOUSE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. **Will the FCC reconsider ownership limits for radio if Congress does not? Is the FCC waiting to see what Congress does first, or does it have no interest in reviewing radio ownership at this time?**

We just reconsidered our radio ownership rules six months ago in October, and there are currently no plans to reconsider them again; unless, of course, Congress directs us to do so.

2. **There is a temptation among some radio people to feel like the current FCC is more interested in TV, telcos, and the information superhighway. Do you believe there's less emphasis on radio issues right now than in past years?**

It is probably true that there is less emphasis on radio currently. Not because of any lack of interest, but because there is simply more work to do with respect to emerging, fast-growing technologies. However, I continue to remind my colleagues that radio is the backbone of our communications system. In any event, the radio industry should be pleased not to be the center of attention at a regulatory-minded governmental bureaucracy.

3. **If the FCC expects to be fully self-funded by 1996, or some other future point, how will radio stations be affected?**

It depends on whatever scheme Congress adopts to make us fully self-funded. If Congress allows us to use some of the money raised in spectrum auctions, there would be no impact on radio stations. If Congress directs us to become self-funded through user or spectrum fees of some sort, then radio stations presumably would be directly affected.

4. **FCC attempts to curtail indecency seem to have little impact on the success of personalities like Howard Stern - or do you feel differently about that? Should there be another mechanism to clean up the airwaves, or is this just not a practical role of the FCC.**

I think there has been significant improvement in the Howard Stern Show since the FCC began issuing substantial forfeitures. Ironically, taking some of the arguably indecent material out of the show has not made Howard Stern any less popular. This, I think, is just the result we should be after: enforcing our indecency prohibition yet not becoming any more involved in the marketplace

than necessary. Aside from indecency, it is not the FCC's job to "clean-up" the airwaves. Citizens hold the ultimate power with their ability to turn the dial, or to put pressure on advertisers to support or not support a particular program.

- 5. Given the proliferation of Joint Sales Agreements (with intent to purchase), is the FCC going to take a harder look at the issues of licensee "control" with it comes to stations under these arrangements?**

This issue is before us in an NPRM to reexamine our attribution rules which was adopted last December. I will be reviewing the comments carefully in deciding whether stricter rules are needed where multiple relationships between broadcasters in the same market are present - no one relationship being violative of any rule or policy. I think broadcasters will be divided on this issue so it may be a tough one for me.

- 6. Now that Congress has killed the Minority Tax Certificate incentive program, is the FCC considering any other programs to encourage minority ownership? Is this a desirable issue for the FCC to address?**

Yes -- in the NPRM on Minority Ownership that we adopted last December. We will be considering options raised in that item, as well as any other ideas commenters may have. Two of those options (a third was expansion of the minority tax certificate program) are an incubator program, whereby minority-owned facilities would receive assistance from established broadcasters, who in turn would be allowed to own an additional station or two under the national ownership limits; the other would involve exceptions to our attribution rules designed to encourage investment in minority companies.

- 7. A lot of fines were levied against broadcasters last year for EEO violations. Do you feel that course of action has been effective? If so, in what way?**

No, I do not think it is effective in accomplishing the goals of our EEO or other rules for that matter. I think for first time violations we should be less punitive and more helpful in terms of what a broadcaster can do to improve his or her program of recruitment for minorities. I also think that the numerous short-term renewals we've been handing out are excessive, as I explained in my recent separate statement on the NAL's against KTTU and WSEE for violations of the limits on commercials during children's television programming. I think we would do more good for broadcasters and for compliance with our rules in the long run if we took a more balanced approach to first-time violations.

8. **What concerns do you have going into the next round of radio license renewals? What discussions have you had with staff? Are LMA's/JSA's of special concern?**

[LET'S FOREGO THIS QUESTION]