

## RCR QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS

1) Lack of spectrum in major urban areas is cited as the major problem facing the mobile communications industry today and in the future. How would you like to see the issue addressed?

**ANSWER:** I would like to have assurance that the spectrum that is available is being used efficiently and effectively. Enforcement plays a role in recovering unused or improperly used spectrum and I believe the Field Operations Bureau and the Private Radio Bureau are generally doing a good job given their resources. Beyond effective use of existing spectrum, I certainly support Chairman Dingell's efforts to free up government spectrum for commercial use.

2) In this regard, do you like the direction the FCC is taking insofar as looking into refarming private land mobile frequencies below the 470 MHz band, the awarding of a pioneer preference, and other regulatory policies being pursued by the Sikes administration?

**ANSWER:** I am generally supportive of measures taken by the current Commission to ensure that the spectrum is used effectively. I believe the pioneer preference approach might be very effective in encouraging more efficient use of the spectrum and I support that approach. Implementing the pioneer preference is much more difficult than simply stating the policy, however. Determining what approach, what technology and which applicant deserves the preference requires some careful decisions and a lot of uncertainty. I hope that we can work it out so that we can implement the preference policy in the public interest.

3) What is your position on spectrum reallocation legislation in Congress?

**ANSWER:** I believe the approach taken by Chairman Dingell is the correct one and, over time, I think it will be successful. There are more and more uses for additional spectrum every day and I believe that it should be made available. However, I believe that our experience in allocating spectrum should have taught us that we need to be careful to make the most of what we have since there are limited amounts of spectrum available. I am very interested in ongoing efforts to explore such technologies as spread spectrum and amplitude compandered single sideband which hold promise in squeezing more efficiency from what we now have available.

4) It has been suggested that your office played a key role in having FCC consideration of further UHF television-land mobile sharing postponed several years ago, and that, overall, you appear more sympathetic toward broadcasting causes than to mobile communications causes. How do you respond to those claims?

**ANSWER:** I have been reluctant to require further sharing of the UHF television spectrum because I don't believe that was the best approach to solving land mobile's problems. We are now trying to solve some problems with the AM radio broadcasting service which we created by putting too many stations on the air. Simply jamming in more services is not the answer. The answer lies in careful use of technology and that's the direction I want to go. I am not saying--nor have I said--that the spectrum used by UHF television cannot be used for anything else for all time.

5) Private land mobile frequency coordination has been criticized in recent years for, among other things, fee levels, service quality and a largely monopolistic coordination structure. What are your thoughts on the subject?

**ANSWER:** I don't have any quarrel with private coordination and, in many cases, I believe the private coordinators do a good job. I do agree with the critics, however, that there should be alternative ways to coordinate applications so that the private coordinators are not absolute gatekeepers. I understand some of the pitfalls of some of suggested alternatives but I believe that we should try to work out some reasonable method of alternative coordination.

6) In the specialized mobile radio industry, unlike the cellular industry, subscribers aren't able to interchange end-user equipment because of varying manufacturer protocols. What should, if any, the FCCs role be in standard setting?

**ANSWER:** In the context of the SMR service, I don't see a Commission standard setting role, at least at this time. When the Commission inaugurated the cellular service, we concluded that it should be a nationwide service with subscribers able to move from city-to-city and enjoy the use of their cellular phone. The SMR service had a different origin and the needs of that service were different. Where there is a need for a more ubiquitous SMR service, the industry can provide it without the Commission getting involved in standards setting. Or, at least I believe it can.

7) How would you assess the effectiveness of telecommunications deregulation that has occurred during the past decade? Can you cite any drawbacks?

**ANSWER:** Generally speaking, the rather limited deregulation of the telecommunications industry over the past decade has been effective in promoting competition and providing incentives for the industry to offer greater value at lower prices. One of the drawbacks, in my view, was the deregulation of cable television to the point where it is able to charge monopoly prices and to exploit broadcast signals without any requirement to provide carriage to local broadcasters.

8) Can you describe what it has felt like to be a Democrat in a Republican-headed FCC during most of your career at the agency?

**ANSWER:** The fact that I'm a Democrat in a Republican administration is really irrelevant in terms of our decision making process at the FCC. We almost never vote along party lines and when we do it's likely to be coincidental.

9) Is FCC enforcement strong enough?

**ANSWER:** Enforcement is always a balancing act. We need to enforce the rules so that those who obey the rules aren't disadvantaged by those who don't. For example, we must get unlicensed operations off the air because legitimate licensees need the spectrum. But, we don't have unlimited resources and judgments must be made about how those resources are allocated. I believe that we have been doing a reasonably good job of enforcement in recent months although undoubtedly improvements can and will be made.

10) What are the biggest challenges of being an FCC commissioner? What have been your most difficult decisions?

**ANSWER:** The biggest challenge in being an FCC commissioner, in my view, is balancing the conflicting needs of the public with respect to telecommunications and then trying to meet those needs in a manner that provides the greatest service to the most people at the most reasonable cost. There have been many difficult decisions over the past seventeen-and-a-half years and I doubt I could single one out as the most difficult.

11) There have been reports in the past about divisiveness among the five commissioners. How well do you get along with the other commissioners and their staffs?

**ANSWER:** Your questions seems to imply that any differences which have been reported at the FCC have been of a personal nature and I don't believe that has been the case. I believe that I get along very well with my colleagues and their staffs. That doesn't mean that I don't occasionally have policy differences and attempt to persuade other commissioners to consider my point of view just as they try to persuade me. That's part of the give and take that you expect in a five-member commission. No one of us has a corner on wisdom. That's probably the reason the commission is made up of five members.

12) Do you ever feel your decision making is skewed by heavy lobbying of Washington, D.C.-based trade associations?

**ANSWER:** I don't think so. Usually, there is lobbying on all sides of a question before us so that the lobbying cancels itself out. The most effective lobbying, I think, is in providing information and perspective to commissioners and that is useful. But, I believe our decisions are made on the basis of what each of us believes to be in the public interest, not in the interest of a particularly lobbying group.

13) What is the FCC's role in telecommunications trade matters? Are changes needed?

**ANSWER:** Our role in trade matters is what the Congress says it is. So far, we have a very limited role which is generally advisory in nature. I am not actively seeking a larger role but, if the Congress decides we can be useful in that area, so be it.

14) How do your future plans shape up?

**ANSWER:** Well, I'm beginning my campaign for reappointment in 1996 and I only have five more years to go. In the meantime, I intend to do the best job I can to represent the best interests of the people of the United States in formulating telecommunications policy.