

equipment is sold to the user. The United States is perhaps the only major industrial country which under existing law still can not approach the interference problem in this way. Moreover, manufacturers who now voluntarily comply with Commission regulations are placed at a competitive disadvantage by the small number of firms which manufacture their products without proper controls to limit harmful radiation. From this point of view, the bill would also be advantageous to responsible manufacturers.

The Commission has assured the industry that it would implement this legislation gradually and only after public hearings and thorough study of all the problems involved. One of such potential problems, to which we specifically invite attention, relates to the limitations on the ability of presently available instruments to measure radio frequency interference with reasonable assurance of accuracy. Commercially available instruments for measuring radiation give widely varying results and even the measurement capability of the National Bureau of Standards in this respect is quite limited in accuracy. The National Bureau of Standards and the Institute for Telecommunication Science and Aeronomy of the Environmental Science Services Administration have under way the principal and most advanced technical programs in the United States to improve the significance, methods, and accuracy of measurement of electrical noise, to determine the sources, level and extent of man-made electrical interference, and to determine its effects on telecommunication services. These organizations are uniquely capable and stand ready to provide the needed technical assistance to the Commission in the establishment of criteria and standards. The International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) of the International Telecommunication Union has adopted a relevant Question, No. 227, on Limitation of Radiation from Industrial, Scientific, and Medical Installations and other kinds of Electrical Equipment, and Study Program No. 227A, on Limitation of Unwanted Radiation from Industrial Installations. These provide an international framework for studies of the technical questions underlying standards. Notwithstanding this measurement problem, which may limit somewhat the ultimate effectiveness of regulations to reduce radiation interference by electronic and electrical devices at the source, we feel that under authority of the bill the Commission, with the assistance of the National Bureau of Standards and the Institute of Telecommunication Science and Aeronomy, in cooperation with industry and affected agencies of the Government, should be able to devise regulations which will result in increased usefulness of the radio spectrum to all users: private industry, scientific research organizations, Government agencies, and the general public.

We have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection to the submission of our report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH W. BARTLETT,
General Counsel.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,
Washington, D.C., October 27, 1967.

HON. HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to your request to the Secretary of Defense for the views of the Department of Defense with respect to H.R. 9665, 90th Congress, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to give the Federal Communications Commission authority to prescribe regulations for the manufacture, import, sale, shipment, or use of devices which cause harmful interference to radio reception. The Department of the Air Force has been designated to express the views of the Department of Defense.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is as indicated in the above stated title.

Under existing provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, the authority of the Federal Communications Commission is limited to prohibiting the use of offending equipment. The Federal Communications Commission, therefore, in attempting to control interference, is confined to apprehending the users of equipment which interferes with radio communications. In most cases, these users have purchased equipment on the assumption that it could be legally operated without further modification to suppress spurious radiation. The proposed legislation would give the Federal Communications Commission the authority to control the interference potential of such equipment by requiring that it be designed by the manufacturer to limit its radiation to what the Federal Communications Com-