

If I may, on a point that you raised, Mr. Chairman, there are all kinds of radiation as I understand it. You have maser and laser radiation and ultrasonic radiation and so forth. To me the term here is a little vague as to just what you have in mind. Are you going to control lasers as a result of this legislation?

Mr. LEE. Under the bill there is a section 302 that defines devices and says, "The Commission may, consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, make reasonable regulations governing the interference potential of devices which in their operation are capable of emitting radio frequency energy by radiation, conduction, or other means in such degree to cause harmful interference to radio communications."

Now, under that definition I say, "Yes" we would have the authority to go to the manufacturer of a laser device. In the development of the laser, presumably at a point in time, we will control them by other means in that area because we will assign them frequencies and perhaps license them, but this bill would let us go to the fellow who makes a device that utilizes the laser.

Mr. BROWN. In effect, this is any device which could interfere with communications, can be controlled on a type-acceptance basis by the Federal Communications Commission; is that correct?

Mr. LEE. That's right.

This bill does not contemplate that we would change our technical standards. We already have technical standards for a number of devices, such as the garage-door opener and industrial heater that we have approved for manufacture.

The same standards would apply, as far as we know at the moment, to these devices; again, the only change would be that instead of going to the consumer, we would go to the manufacturer.

Mr. BROWN. If I am a manufacturer in a field in which you are holding back a matter of technical progress because you feel that it interferes with some type of existing, historically prior communications, what recourse do I have?

Mr. LEE. Of course, you could always petition the Commission. As far as we have gone so far in the development of new technology, we have always worked cooperatively with the industry. They come to you and say, "Look, we would like to do this." We say, "Well, go ahead and try it, with these standards."

Mr. BROWN. Again, with the chairman's patience. You are talking about people already in the field. I am talking about another field. Maybe ultrasonics, maybe they are getting a development automatically or, by the way they have developed it that interferes with existing radio communications, does my only recourse lie in asking for a hearing before the Communications Commission which takes—how long? How far are we behind in hearings?

Mr. LEE. Any hearing will take a considerable period of time; that's right. We have not had that experience in these new fields.

Mr. DIXON. We have usually two or three people visit our office each month with proposals for new-type devices, usually on a non-licensed basis so they can be mass produced and sold over the counter, and so forth, for which there are no provisions in our present rules. It is possible now for us to make additional provisions for new devices, but as Commissioner Lee pointed out in his prepared statement just read, the degree of control we can exercise is very limited since we have to go out and locate each one if it's causing trouble.