

STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK PACE, JR., CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING, PRESENTED BY JOSEPH D. HUGHES, MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS; ACCOMPANIED BY STEPHEN AILES, COUNSEL

Mr. HUGHES. Mr. Chairman and members, we regret that Mr. Pace could not be here to present this statement to you this morning. He underwent major surgery last Thursday for kidney stones, from which he is recovering quite nicely. It appears, however, that a period of convalescence of several weeks will occur before he is back in harness and able fully to resume a role in the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The statement which I will present in his behalf was worked out with Mr. Pace by telephone, and is his statement. It is as follows:

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, it is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to present to you my views on the proposed bill authorizing appropriation of funds for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969.

Before turning to the bill itself, I want to pay tribute to the significant role that members of your subcommittee played in the legislative process which resulted in the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 and thus in the creation of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

I am very pleased to report that the necessary incorporation papers will be filed today and the Corporation formally established as a nonprofit corporation in the District of Columbia. I look forward in the next weeks to the first formal meeting of the Board of Directors, of which I have the honor to be Chairman.

My fellow Board members are distinguished Americans, some with backgrounds in television and radio, and others with broad experience in other aspects of government, education, business, and cultural affairs. As I do, they come to this new and exciting venture with a deep sense of purpose and with an openmindedness as to how we should function to carry out the broad intent of the legislation.

It was the desire of both the President and the Congress that this corporation be independent in practice as well as in theory. In my judgment, there is no better guarantee of this than the men—and the lady—who were chosen to be the incorporators and first Board of Directors. They are people of stature and ability who have already made great contributions to American life. It is clear that they take this new responsibility most seriously and, working closely with the Congress, will strive to see to it that the Corporation achieves the great goals set by the legislation.

The opportunities and responsibilities facing this new instrumentality are enormous. We are all aware that television is an immensely powerful technology—new in any relative sense and growing steadily more influential. We all seek to bring this technology into the full service of man and to do so within the framework of our creative free society. At the same time, we are aware that the older institution of radio remains a vital and progressive force in American life, deserving of the attention of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Since the Board has not formally met, I cannot speak for the directors as a body. But in the weeks since the President's nomination, I have talked with many of its members and with many other people who have assessed the nature and purpose, as well as the experience of television to date. I have sought their advice on what we should do and how we should go about doing it.

My own view of the immediate future is clear. While I do not want to disappoint any of the short-range hopes held by many for this Corporation, it would be equally dangerous to encourage false hopes that dramatic new departures in broadcasting are going to be achieved overnight.

We shall move carefully—some may say cautiously, but nevertheless, our mandate from the Congress requires us to begin the first steps of the journey.

For example, it is clear that one of our main long-term functions will be to strengthen the programming available to public television. It is also clear that this is to be done mainly by strengthening local stations, providing them with more choice in what they present, while at the same time helping them to maintain their independence. We hope to learn much from what others have done in