

Congress "recognized * * * that a public broadcasting service could more fully meet the educational and cultural needs of the Nation."

In urging Congress to reaffirm its commitment to the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 as passed and to appropriate the full amounts for fiscal 1968 as authorized, the committee in its resolution stated:

To settle for less, at this critical moment, could do serious harm to the development of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the continued growth of strong local stations.

The \$10.5 million facilities moneys alone, which was to have been appropriated for fiscal 1968 and was properly expected by educational broadcasters and their audiences as a simple extension of the Educational Television Facilities Act of 1962, are desperately needed by the educational stations of this country. Already, there are project requests into the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for funds $3\frac{1}{2}$ times the amount that was to have been, but as yet has not been, appropriated for fiscal 1968. The needed moneys for educational station facilities are mounting at the rate of almost \$20 million per year, while no money is appropriated for them.

The committee strongly holds that the \$10.5 million in facilities moneys should still be appropriated for fiscal 1968. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting must inherit the strongest possible system of educational television stations for it to service in the public interest.

The committee has no desire to divorce itself from the multitudinous problems this Nation faces. The committee exists, in point of fact, to foster a broadcasting system that will help this Nation better to face, understand, and solve these problems. Where Federal funds are unavailable because of emergency budgetary considerations caused by the difficulties in which this country finds itself, the committee reluctantly can understand delay.

Even so, there are several points in conjunction with the funding of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting that we believe must be made with precision. A public broadcasting system of the breadth envisioned in the Congress' 1967 act cannot get fully underway until Federal moneys begin to make it possible.

Such a public broadcasting system, at this point in our history, could do much to report and clarify the issues which threaten to tear this Nation apart. The fact is that any delay in starting a strong, healthy, and productive public television system on its way keeps our national communications from taking on a form that is absolutely essential to this Nation's well-being.

Only through the offices of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, according to Congress' own definition in the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, can all the activities that a strengthened public television this country needs be accomplished. It is imperative, from the committee's and the country's point of view, that the Corporation get started to—

Facilitate the full development of Public Broadcasting.

Be the body to assist in the establishment and development of noncommercial television and radio stations.

Make funds available for production of programs of high quality for noncommercial broadcasting.

Obtain grants from various sources and make payments to local stations for programing and other costs of operations.