

Arrange by grant or contract for interconnection facilities at the free or reduced rates which the communications common carriers are permitted by the act to provide.

Engage in activities that will assure maximum freedom of the system and its stations.

Have final responsibility for recommending a permanent financing plan for public broadcasting.

The committee backs these roles of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Through its public information efforts and through special studies, such as one on financing recommended by its members to be made expressly for the Corporation, the committee will do all it can to see that the Corporation move ahead expeditiously. But the Corporation cannot move ahead as it should until its initial, minimal \$9 million in Federal moneys are appropriated.

For all the reasons I have enumerated, I believe it unlikely that the committee would on another occasion willingly accept any further delay in getting public broadcasting going. The committee expects that public broadcasting—or at least that tiny footpath which is really what we are talking about here today that can lead to a full-fledged public broadcasting system in this country—must at last begin to move in the directions laid down by the Congress in the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967.

In summation, the citizens committee believes that the \$10.5 million in facilities moneys still must be appropriated for fiscal 1968.

The committee urges that the amendment being considered here today be approved.

Further, the committee asks that the full sums of \$9 million for the Corporation—as well as the \$12.5 million for facilities called for in the act for fiscal 1969—be appropriated as quickly as possible.

I thank you.

(The attachments referred to follow:)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY FEBRUARY 12, 1968, BY THE NATIONAL
CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC TELEVISION

The President proposed and the Congress, through bipartisan support, enacted the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967.

The Act has three main provisions: Title I, which extended construction grants for educational broadcasting facilities and authorized an appropriation for the current fiscal year of \$10.5 million; Title II, which created the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and authorized an appropriation until expended of \$9 million; and Title III, the instructional broadcasting study for which funding provisions have been made.

Both the Administration and Congress recognized by their action that a Public Broadcasting service could more fully meet the educational and cultural needs of the nation.

The provisions of this astute legislation have been hailed unanimously by educational television stations, National Educational Television, the Educational Television Stations Division of the National Association of Educational Broadcasters, educators, the members of the Carnegie Commission and the National Citizens Committee for Public Television.

Today the House Appropriations Committee has before it a budget request for \$4 million to finance the Corporation's initial activities. No request for funds for Title I has been made for 1968.

The Committee believes that Congress' initial judgment on the minimum necessary funding was sound for Titles I and II. Further, the authorization inspired substantial contributions from the private sector.

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.