

informed public, and in the interest of a station's basic obligation to be an involved participant in its local community, editorializing by educational stations should be allowed.

On Mr. Harley's final point concerning political broadcasting, again, I agree. He says:

The NAEB believes that provision for local political debates on strictly non-partisan basis is an important service which educational stations should be free to render.

A station such as mine should do this and does do this.

A sticky point arises, however, when a station such as mine makes a nonpolitical program which might be seen elsewhere and which involves a person who is or may become a political candidate elsewhere.

As you probably know, educational stations across the country make programs, and, through several networking arrangements, these programs may be distributed to all the other educational stations for showing as they wish. As I mentioned in the beginning of my remarks, it might be of some value to the subcommittee to know how such a thing as the equal-time provision actually affects the people who make the programs.

Basically, it can pose problems. While straight news broadcasts are exempt from the provision, public affairs programs are in another less clear area. Specifically, WETA recently had a couple of problems involving the appearance of U.S. Senators on certain nonpolitical programs which were made for showing in other areas as well as Washington.

In one case, the program was one of a series with important and noted public figures in which the aim was to show, through an informal, relaxed interview, what kind of a man the interviewee really was, how he thought, why he held the views he did, what he liked and disliked about his life, and, in sum, just who this person was. This was not a political program, but it did involve a politician.

The problem arose with one Senator who was on the verge of announcing his candidacy for reelection. Our difficulty, obviously, was, would the stations in the Senator's home State be able to show this program if he announced his candidacy before they broadcast the program? Would they be able to show it; that is, without having to give equal time to any and all of his possible opponents?

In this case, the Senator did announce his candidacy before the program was shown in his State. At the time there were no other announced candidates in his State. And even if there had been, the station in the State's biggest city felt that it would happily agree to any requests for equal time from any opponent of the Senator. Other stations conceivably might have felt otherwise.

A second case involving a U.S. Senator was somewhat different. We had asked him to come on a program which would be seen nationally, including his own State. But he was asked to come on the program as an expert on a specific subject—in this case an international issue. He was not asked because he was a Senator, but because he was a nationally known authority on the subject.

He, too, was on the verge of announcing his candidacy for reelection. We decided to utilize him anyway, and as it turned out, he did not announce for reelection until after the program had been shown.