

Calendar No. 228

70TH CONGRESS
1st Session

SENATE

REPORT
No. 228

FEDERAL RADIO COMMISSION

February 1 (calendar day, February 3), 1928. - Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Watson, from the Committee on Interstate Commerce, submitted the following:

REPORT

To accompany S. 2317.

Your committee to whom was referred S. 2317, having had the same under consideration, report it back favorable with certain amendments:

Under the radio act of 1927 the original jurisdiction of the Radio Commission was to continue for a year from the period of the first meeting. The commission met on March 15, 1927, and its period of original jurisdiction under the radio law will expire March 15, 1928. Owing to the failure of the second deficiency bill at the close of the last session of Congress, no money was appropriated for the commission and it was greatly handicapped in its work because of the lack of funds. Two members of the commission have died since it was organized, and a third has resigned. In addition to this, the problems of the vibration of the short wave lengths for commercial uses and other uses have multiplied. The commission's work is in such an unbroken condition that your committee believes that the term for the exercise of its original jurisdiction should be continued for at least one more year. This will enable Congress to make substantial appropriations and the commission to go about its work with a knowledge that its service will continue for at least that period. It is hoped by that time that many of the present problems can be solved.

The amendment to the title, "and for other purposes," is made to cover the new section added to the bill.

The second amendment, to be designated as section 3, is designed to prohibit the granting of long-time leases to radio stations prior to January 1, 1929. The present law permits the granting of broadcasting licenses for a period not to exceed three years and leases for other stations for a period not to exceed five years.

owing to the development and change which is continually taking place in the radio art, your committee believes it desirable to prevent any licenses for the periods of time beyond those mentioned in the amendment until the art is more fully developed and the allocation of frequencies more systematically made. Up to this time the Radio Commission has not granted any licenses for a broadcasting station for a period in excess of 60 days and licenses for any other class of station for a period of more than one year.

