

PUBLIC BROADCASTING FINANCING ACT OF 1970

SEPTEMBER 23, 1970.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. STAGGERS, from the committee of conference,
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany S. 3558]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 3558) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide continued financing for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment insert the following:

That this Act may be cited as the "Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1970".

SEC. 2. Subsection (k) of section 396 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 396(k)) is amended to read as follows:

"(k)(1) There are authorized to be appropriated for expenses of the Corporation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969, the sum of \$9,000,000; for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1970, the sum of \$20,000,000; and for each of the two succeeding fiscal years, the sum of \$30,000,000.

"(2) In addition to the sums authorized to be appropriated by paragraph (1) of this subsection, there are authorized to be appropriated for payment to the Corporation for each fiscal year during the period July 1, 1970, to June 30, 1972, amounts equal to the amount of total grants, donations, bequests, or other contributions (including money and the fair market value of any property) from non-Federal sources

received by the Corporation under section 396(g)(2)(A) of this Act during such fiscal year; except that the amount appropriated pursuant to this paragraph for any fiscal year may not exceed \$5,000,000.”

HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
 TORBERT H. MACDONALD,
 LIONEL VAN DEERLIN,
 WILLIAM L. SPRINGER,
 JAMES T. BROYHILL,

Managers on the Part of the House.

WARREN G. MAGNUSON,
 JOHN O. PASTORE,
 VANCE HARTKE,
 ROBERT P. GRIFFIN,
 HOWARD BAKER,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

STATEMENT OF THE MANAGERS ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

The managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 3558) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide continued financing for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting submit the following statement in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the conferees and recommended in the accompanying conference report:

SENATE VERSION

The Senate-passed bill provided for a 3-year open ended authorization to provide continued financing for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for fiscal years 1971 through 1973. In addition, the bill as passed by the Senate would have provided for open end authorizations for the same 3 years to match grants, donations, bequests, and other contributions received by the Corporation from non-Federal sources. In the foregoing respects, the Senate-passed bill was identical to the legislation requested by the administration.

The Senate bill also contained provisions which would have required each public broadcast station receiving Federal assistance under title III of the Communications Act of 1934 to (1) keep records (including audio recordings) for at least 3 months of each program which it broadcast which involved an issue of public importance, and (2) furnish such records to the Federal Communications Commission at its request. These latter provisions requiring records were not the subject of hearing in either House. Questions were also raised as to why they should be limited in their application to public broadcast stations receiving Federal grants under title III of the Communications Act of 1934. It was also clear that the impact of these provisions on public broadcast stations which would be subject to them was largely unknown.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

On the other hand, the House amendment to the Senate-passed bill provided for a 1-year extension of financing for the Corporation covering fiscal year 1971. Under the House amendment, not more than \$30 million would have been authorized to be appropriated to the Corporation for fiscal year 1971, plus an additional amount not exceeding \$5 million to match grants, donations, bequests, and other contributions received by the Corporation from non-Federal sources. The 1-year extension of financing in the House version was intended to give the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce closer oversight of the development of a permanent plan for financing the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

The conference agreement authorizes appropriations for the Corporation for fiscal years 1971 and 1972 at the same level each year provided in the House amendment for fiscal year 1971; namely, not more than \$30 million outright, and an additional amount of not more than \$5 million for each such fiscal year to match contributions to the Corporation from non-Federal sources.

The recording requirements in the Senate bill were omitted and the managers on the part of the House agree that legislation similar to the recordkeeping provisions in the Senate bill, but applicable to all broadcast stations, should be the subject of hearings in the next session of Congress.

The authorization of appropriations for the Corporation for 1 more year than was provided in the House version was accepted by the House conferees because of the delay in passing this legislation. We are convinced and determined that it will not impede the formulation of a permanent plan for financing the Corporation.

HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
TORBERT H. MACDONALD,
LIONEL VAN DEERLIN,
WILLIAM L. SPRINGER,
JAMES T. BROYHILL,

Managers on the Part of the House.

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