

The original documents are located in Box 45, folder “1975/05/15 - Kathleen Ryan” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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KATHLEEN RYAN

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Thursday, May 15, 1975

8:30 a.m.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jim Conaway -

What is
President's attitude
~~there~~ toward
Public Broadcasting?

Jim

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jim Cannon
FROM: Kathleen Ryan *KR*.
SUBJECT: Public Broadcasting Financing Act

You asked -- who are the Chairman and the ranking minority member of Labor-HEW Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee.

They are -- Daniel Flood, Chairman, and Bob Michel, ranking minority member.

cc: Dick Parsons

1012 MAY 12 1975

DOMESTIC COUNCIL CLEARANCE SHEET

DATE: April 30, 1975

JMC action required by: ASAP

TO: JIM CANNON

VIA: DICK DUNHAM *[Signature]*

JIM CAVANAUGH *[Signature]*

FROM: Dick Parsons *D.*
Kathleen Ryan *ke.*

SUBJECT: Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975
(H. R. 4563) *Appropriations*

COMMENTS: House

*Daniel Flood
Bob Michel*

*Senate
Magnuson
Ed Brooke*

DATE: 5/14/75

RETURN TO:

Material has been:

____ Signed and forwarded

____ Changed and signed (copy attached)

____ Returned per our conversation

☒ Noted
*for further info
and meeting.*

*LaTus
Who is chairman
and conference
minority member
Labor - How
of subcommittee
see list
And. Moose
Jim Cannon*



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

April 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jim Cannon

FROM: Richard Parsons
Kathleen Ryan

SUBJECT: Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975
(H. R. 4563)

The Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 authorized the creation of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private, non-profit corporation for quality educational broadcasting insulated from Federal government control. That Act also emphasized the important role of local stations in serving the educational needs of the community.

Since passage of the Act in 1967, there has been no long-range program of Federal financing, due to questions of structure and policy. Most of these questions have been resolved and, on February 13, 1975, the Administration submitted to Congress the Public Broadcasting Act of 1975 (H. R. 4563).

The Administration's bill affirms the Federal commitment to the principle of public broadcasting with long-term financing. It would appropriate Federal funds for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting over a five-year period, starting with \$70 million in FY 1976, and reaching \$100 million by FY 1980. This multi-year funding, if approved, would insulate Public Broadcasting from possible pressure that might result from the annual budgeting and appropriations process. It will enable the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and local stations to plan future programming with an assurance of Federal funding.

Since the Administration bill combines a multi-year authorization and appropriation, it must be considered consecutively by the Commerce and Appropriations Committees of each House. The bill has sailed rather smoothly through the Senate Commerce and Senate Appropriations Committees and the Communications Subcommittee in the House. It appears, however, that the five-year appropriations aspect of the bill will meet resistance in the House Appropriations Committee (more particularly, in the Labor-HEW Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee).

I am informed that this resistance is based principally on a natural reluctance to relinquish annual control of Public Broadcasting's purse strings, as well as a fear that the bill would set a precedent for multi-year financing of other Federally funded programs. Moreover, there appears to be a fundamental misconception of the underlying reasons for a multi-year appropriation.

The Office of Telecommunications Policy has undertaken a concerted effort to educate key members of the House Appropriations Committee on the background and rationale supporting the Administration's bill. It seems to me that we ought to be doing the same thing and, therefore, I suggest you raise this matter with Max Friedersdorf. Attached, for your consideration, is a draft memorandum from you to Max covering the issue.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Max Friedersdorf

FROM: Jim Cannon

SUBJECT: Administration's Long-Term Funding Bill
for Public Broadcasting (H. R. 4563)

The Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975 (H. R. 4563), the Administration's long-term funding legislation for Public Broadcasting, will be coming before the Labor-HEW Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee very soon.

I am informed that the five-year appropriations aspect of the bill will meet resistance in the Subcommittee and in the full Committee. This resistance is apparently based on a natural reluctance to relinquish control over public broadcasting's purse strings, as well as a fear that the bill would set a precedent for multi-year financing of other Federally funded programs. Moreover, there also appears to be a fundamental misconception of the underlying reason for a multi-year appropriation in this case.

In view of this, you may wish to talk to key members of the Subcommittee and the full Committee about the background and rationale supporting our bill. Attached is a "poop sheet" which could serve to facilitate these discussions.

Attachment

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE RE: THE ADMINISTRATION'S LONG-TERM FUNDING BILL FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING (H. R. 4563)

On February 13, 1975, the Administration submitted to Congress the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975 (H. R. 4563). This bill would appropriate Federal funds for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting over a five-year period, starting with \$70 million in FY 1976, and reaching \$100 million for FY 1980, and would authorize the expenditure thereof.

- As expressed in the President's February 13 statement accompanying the bill, the sole reason justifying a multi-year appropriation is the susceptibility of a Federally subsidized medium of expression to possible government control inherent in annual fiscal scrutiny.
- This proposal is sui generis and will not open the flood-gates of multi-year funding for other programs. Public broadcasting is the only Federally funded mass communications medium; no other programs raise comparable issues.
- The Executive Branch, in proposing this bill, was willing to forego its own annual budgetary prerogatives in order to achieve the necessary insulation between public broadcasting and the Federal government.

J.C. Chron

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WASHINGTON

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