

The original documents are located in Box 37, folder “12/31/75 HR6461 Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975 (1)” of the White House Records Office: Legislation Case Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Exact duplicates within this folder were not digitized.

signed 12/31/75

APPROVED

DEC 31 1975

Statement Signed 1/1/76

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION

WASHINGTON

Last Day: December 31

December 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON *[initials]*

SUBJECT: H.R. 6461 - Public Broadcasting
Financing Act of 1975

*To Archives
1/2*

Attached for your consideration is H.R. 6461, sponsored by Representative Macdonald and seven others, which:

- Provides a 5-year appropriation authorization for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, with a matching formula based on non-Federal contributions;
- Requires that a specified portion of the funds appropriated to the Corporation be distributed to local stations.

The enrolled bill is similar to legislation submitted by the Administration except that it provides only a 5-year authorization, but not appropriations, for the Corporation and the authorization ceilings in the bill are substantially higher than those requested by the Administration.

A detailed discussion of the provisions of the enrolled bill is provided in OMB's enrolled bill report at Tab A.

OMB, Max Friedersdorf, Bill Seidman, Counsel's Office (Lazarus) and I recommend approval of the enrolled bill.

OTP recommends that you issue the attached signing statement which has been edited by OMB and Paul Theis.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign H.R. 6461 at Tab B.

That you approve the signing statement at Tab C.

Approve *JRC* Disapprove _____

A



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

DEC 24 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill H.R. 6461 - Public Broadcasting
Financing Act of 1975
Sponsor - Rep. Macdonald (D) Mass. and 7 others

Last Day for Action

December 31, 1975 - Wednesday

Purpose

Provides a 5-year appropriation authorization for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, with a matching formula based on non-Federal contributions; requires a specified portion of the funds appropriated to CPB to be distributed to local stations; makes certain other changes in the public broadcasting law.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval (Signing statement attached)
Office of Telecommunications Policy	Approval (Signing statement attached)
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	Approval
Department of the Treasury	No objection
Federal Communications Commission	No objection
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare	No objection, but defers to other agencies

Discussion

In 1974 and again in February of 1975, the Administration submitted legislation to the Congress providing for long-term funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting



(CPB). The Administration bill contained four key features:

- (1) A multi-year authorization and appropriation covering fiscal years 1976-1980.
- (2) Provision of Federal funding on a matching basis of one Federal dollar for every \$2.50 in non-Federal contributions.
- (3) Ceilings on the amount of Federal funding for each of the five fiscal years ranging from \$70 million in fiscal year 1976 to \$100 million in fiscal year 1980.
- (4) A requirement that a fixed percentage of the Federal subsidy for CPB be passed through directly to local public broadcasting stations pursuant to a statutory formula.

H.R. 6461 is the same as the Administration's bill in all but two important respects: (1) it provides only a 5-year authorization, but not appropriations, for CPB and (2) the authorization ceilings in the bill are substantially higher than those requested by the Administration.

Both the House and Senate Commerce Committees initially supported the inclusion of appropriations in the substantive authorization bill for CPB. The House Appropriations Committee, however, strongly opposed the proposed backdoor financing, stating that "The Committee is not persuaded that the budgetary problems of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting are sufficiently different from those of other publicly supported agencies and institutions to justify such a radical departure from the normal appropriation process." Although both Houses subsequently acceded to the position of the House Appropriations Committee, the legislative history of the enrolled bill indicates the likelihood of adoption of the Committee's proposed alternative--an advance appropriation. The Committee's report states that it will initially provide appropriations for fiscal years 1976-1978, and would then consider the fiscal year 1979 and 1980 appropriations in the following two congressional sessions.

The cumulative authorization ceilings in H.R. 6461 exceed by \$182 million those proposed by the Administration, as shown below:

<u>Fiscal years</u>	(Millions of dollars)	
	<u>Administration proposal</u>	<u>Enrolled bill</u>
1976	70	88
TQ	17.5	22
1977	80	103
1978	90	121
1979	95	140
1980	<u>100</u>	<u>160</u>
Totals	452.5	634

If the Congress were to fund CPB at the authorized ceilings in the enrolled bill, and enough non-Federal support were generated to allow a full 40% Federal match, Federal outlays for the public broadcasting system would increase to double their present level by fiscal year 1980. However, while future congressional appropriation action is naturally difficult to predict, past CPB appropriation history indicates that the annual amounts provided by the Congress have not differed significantly from Administration requests.

In its attached views letter and draft signing statement on the enrolled bill, OTP proposes that the Administration again request a five-year appropriation for CPB to implement its original proposal. We believe that in light of the position of the House Appropriations Committee, a better course of action would be request funding through fiscal year 1978 in the next session of the Congress. Accordingly, if you approve H.R. 6461, we would plan to show in the 1977 Budget requests of \$70 million for each of the fiscal years 1976 and 1977, and \$80 million of advance funding for 1978, in line with your recent budget decisions.

Recommendations

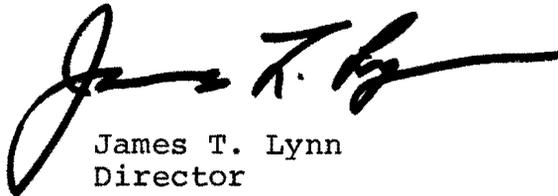
OTP believes the enrolled bill is a significant achievement, but that the absence of a five-year appropriation makes it "half a loaf" compared to the Administration's proposal. OTP states that "the expressed intention of the House Appropriations Committee to approve annual advance year appropriations does no more to achieve insulation between government and the medium than the present system of annual appropriations."



Treasury, on the other hand, has no objection to the bill in view of the fact that appropriations will be subject to the normal budgetary process.

* * * * *

We are concerned about the excessive authorizations in H.R. 6461 and the pressures they will create for funding over the budget requests. Nevertheless, we believe the desirable features of the bill outweigh this concern, and recommend its approval. We do not believe a signing statement is necessary, but have attached an edited and corrected version of OTP's draft signing statement which indicates our plan to request funding through fiscal year 1978.



James T. Lynn
Director

Enclosures



original 12/31/75

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION

WASHINGTON

Last Day: December 31

December 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON

SUBJECT: H.R. 6461 - Public Broadcasting
Financing Act of 1975

Attached for your consideration is H.R. 6461, sponsored by Representative Macdonald and seven others, which:

- Provides a 5-year appropriation authorization for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, with a matching formula based on non-Federal contributions;
- Requires that a specified portion of the funds appropriated to the Corporation be distributed to local stations.

The enrolled bill is similar to legislation submitted by the Administration except that it provides only a 5-year authorization, but not appropriations, for the Corporation and the authorization ceilings in the bill are substantially higher than those requested by the Administration.

A detailed discussion of the provisions of the enrolled bill is provided in OMB's enrolled bill report at Tab A.

OMB, Max Friedersdorf, Bill Seidman, Counsel's Office (Lazarus) and I recommend approval of the enrolled bill.

OTP recommends that you issue the attached signing statement which has been edited by OMB and Paul Theis.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign H.R. 6461 at Tab B.

That you approve the signing statement at Tab C.

Approve RR7 Disapprove _____

OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

December 22, 1975

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Honorable James T. Lynn
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Lynn:

The purpose of this letter is to set out the views and recommendations of the Office of Telecommunications Policy on Enrolled Bill, H.R. 6461, The Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975.

This legislation is a derivative of an Administration bill providing for long term funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). The Administration bill, developed by the Office of Telecommunications Policy and finally agreed to by the public broadcasting community, contained four key features:

- (1) Provide Federal funding on a matching basis of one Federal dollar for every \$2.50 in non-Federal contributions;
- (2) Require that a fixed percentage of the Federal subsidy for CPB be distributed directly to local public broadcasting stations pursuant to a statutory formula based on the needs of local stations and their audiences.
- (3) Provide a multi-year authorization and appropriation for CPB for a five year period;
- (4) Establish ceilings on the amount of Federal funding for each of the five years, ranging from \$70 million in FY76 to \$100 million in FY80.

The enrolled bill, although not conforming in all respects to the Administration's bill, is a significant achievement. The first and second features enumerated above are included

in H.R. 6461. Together, they guarantee that Federal funding will not dominate the finances of public broadcasting and ensure that the Federal commitment will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

The Administration bill called for a five year authorization and appropriation. This feature was central to the Administration's proposal, as set out in the President's statement of February 13, 1975 (enclosed) addressing the necessity for insulating public broadcasting from the annual budgetary and appropriations processes in order to resolve the dilemma posed by government funding on the one hand, and government control over programming on the other. Because of a jurisdictional dispute between the House Commerce and Appropriations Committees, the appropriation language of the bill was excised. The House Appropriations Committee, in an adverse report on the Administration bill, intimated a disagreement with the five year appropriation approach, despite strong endorsement of the authorizing committees of both the House and the Senate. In its report, the House Appropriations Committee expressed a willingness to appropriate funds to public broadcasting annually on an advance-year basis, but appeared unwilling to go along with a one time, five year appropriation. The appropriation for public broadcasting will most likely be taken up in February with the Second Supplemental.

The enrolled bill also differs from that proposed by the Administration in the level of the funding ceilings. The following table sets forth the differences:

	<u>Administration Ceilings</u>	<u>Enrolled Bill Ceilings</u>
FY76	\$70M	\$88M
Trans Qtr.	\$17.5M	\$22M
FY77	\$80M	\$103M
FY78	\$90M	\$121M
FY79	\$95M	\$140M
FY80	\$100M	\$160M

Recommended Action

Although the absence of a five year appropriation provision makes this bill "half a loaf" compared to the Administration's proposal, and although the authorization ceilings significantly exceed those of the Administration, neither of these features is sufficiently objectionable to justify a veto.



Both deficiencies can and should be remedied in the follow-up appropriation. The ceilings on the matching appropriation should be reduced for obvious reasons; and the multi-year appropriation feature should be implemented to complete the original design of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967. With regard to the latter point, the expressed intention of the House Appropriations Committee to approve annual advance-year appropriations does no more to achieve insulation between government and the medium than the present system of annual appropriations.

The signing of this bill should be accompanied by a statement applauding its advantages and strongly urging the Congress, and especially the House Appropriations Committee, to follow-up with a multi-year appropriation with lower spending limits. A draft of such a statement is enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Eger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Eger
Acting Director

Enclosures



Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The Administration today sent a bill to the Congress that will appropriate Federal funds for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting over a five-year period, starting with \$70 million in fiscal 1976 and reaching \$100 million by 1980. To assure that Federal support does not dominate public broadcasting and to encourage continued non-Federal contributions, the Federal funds would be provided on a matching basis -- with one Federal dollar for every \$2.50 in non-Federal revenues up to the annual ceiling.

Since enactment of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, the Federal Government has supported the growth and development of non-commercial educational radio and television through annual appropriations. During this time, public broadcasting has developed and matured into a far-reaching, effective medium for bringing high quality educational and cultural programming to millions of Americans.

A recurring question in public broadcasting has been how to reconcile Government funding with the possibility of Government control. On the one hand, if Federal funds are used to support public broadcasting, the Government must be able to evaluate how the funds are spent. To do otherwise would be irresponsible. On the other hand, strict accountability by public broadcasting to the Government can lead to Government direction of programming, which is contrary to the principles of free expression on which our Nation was founded. It is this issue alone which requires that the Congress consider a five-year appropriation for public broadcasting.

This bill is a constructive approach to the sensitive relationship between Federal funding and freedom of expression. It would eliminate the scrutiny of programming that could be associated with the normal budgetary and appropriations processes of the Government. At the same time, it would still permit periodic review of public broadcasting by the Congress. I believe that it will assure the independence of non-commercial radio and television programming for our Nation; and, long-term Federal funding will add stability to the financing of public broadcasting which may enhance the quality of its programming. I urge the Congress to enact it promptly.

EGER/KELLER
December 19, 1975

D R A F T

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT UPON SIGNING H.R. 6461

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to sign the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975. This legislation, while not perfect, represents a milestone in the history of public broadcasting and goes a long way toward assuring that public broadcasting will continue to be an effective and innovative source of educational and cultural programming for the American people.

I congratulate the Congress for including in this new legislation most of the provisions originally recommended by the Administration. For the first time, a significant percentage of the Federal contribution to public broadcasting will be required by law to be distributed directly to local public broadcasting stations. In addition, the level of Federal funding will be keyed to the ability of the Corporation and the local stations to generate contributions from other sources. Both of these features insure that the Federal commitment to public broadcasting will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

I am also pleased to see that the legislation provides for a five year authorization. Multi-year funding for public broadcasting has been a long-sought objective, going all the way back to the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, as a means of insulating this important medium of expression from the possibility of undue governmental control that is inherent in the usual Federal budgetary and appropriations processes.

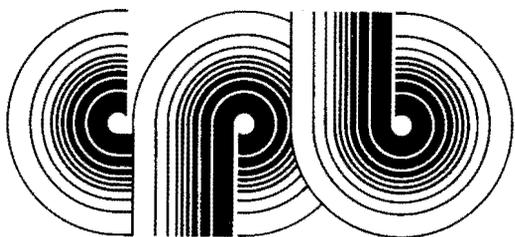
I must point out, however, that I believe the present bill is deficient in that it does not include the corresponding five year appropriation as was originally proposed by the Administration. In this respect the legislation is only a half-way measure; in order to complete the package, I urge the Congress, and particularly the House Appropriations Committee, to give the most serious consideration to a multi-year appropriation bill patterned after this authorization.

I must also say I am concerned about the funding ceilings contained in this authorization. The bill proposed by the Administration contained funding ceilings for a five year period ranging from \$70 million in the first year to \$100 million in the fifth year. Unfortunately, the Congress has increased these ceilings significantly so that the five year authorization now ranges from \$88 million



to \$160 million. In this time of severe strain on the Federal budget, I consider it essential that any appropriation measure that follows this legislation conform to the limits set out in the Administration's original proposal.

In spite of the deficiencies I have mentioned, and which I urge the Congress to correct in subsequent appropriation legislation, I believe the bill I am signing today will significantly enhance the ability of public broadcasting to continue to provide programming of excellence and diversity for the American people.



corporation for public broadcasting

1111 16th Street, N. W. · Washington, D.C. · 20036 · Tel. (202) 293-6160

Henry Loomis
President

December 22, 1975

Mr. James M. Frey
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Frey:

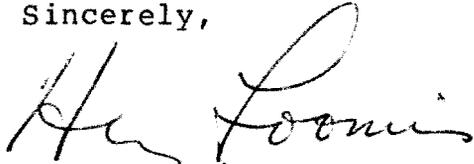
Thank you for your Enrolled Bill request of December 18, 1975. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is a private, nongovernment corporation established pursuant to the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 and the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act, and is not an agency or establishment of the United States Government. However, we nevertheless appreciate the opportunity to comment on the enrolled bill H.R. 6461, An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide long term financing for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6461 would establish in the United States Treasury, a fund which shall be known as the "Public Broadcasting Fund" to be administered by the Secretary of the Treasury. H.R. 6461 authorizes appropriations to such fund, for the operation of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a five year period beginning July 1, 1975, and ending September 30, 1980. The funds authorized to be appropriated pursuant to H.R. 6461 will be based on a matching principle that relates Federal support for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in any fiscal year to the total nonduplicated, non-Federal support received by all public broadcasting entities in the second preceding fiscal year. The authorizations in H.R. 6461 are subject to annual ceilings.

The Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting adopted a resolution in February, 1974, which specified principles

that it believed essential to any sound long-range funding proposal for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The provisions of H.R. 6461 are generally in accord with the principles enunciated in that resolution. Accordingly, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting recommends that H.R. 6461 be signed into law.

Sincerely,



Henry Loomis



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

DEC 22 1975

Director, Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D. C. 20503

Attention: Assistant Director for Legislative
Reference

Sir:

Reference is made to your request for the views of this Department on the enrolled enactment of H.R. 6461, "To amend certain provisions of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide long-term financing for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and for other purposes."

The enrolled enactment would establish the "Public Broadcasting Fund" in the Treasury and authorize appropriations to the fund. The amount authorized exceeds that recommended by the Administration. However, the provision in the Administration bill which would have made appropriations to the fund, thus bypassing the regular budgetary process, has been eliminated.

In view of the fact that appropriations to the fund will be subject to the normal budgetary process, the Department would have no objection to a recommendation that the enrolled enactment be approved by the President.

Sincerely yours,


Stephen S. Gardner



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3200

Honorable James T. Lynn
Director, Office of Management & Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Lynn:

This is in response to your request of December 18, 1975, for the Commission's views and recommendation on enrolled bill H.R. 6461, an Act to amend the Communications Act of 1934, to extend certain authorizations for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

H.R. 6461 would authorize and appropriate for the operation of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for each fiscal year in the period beginning July 1, 1975 and ending September 30, 1980, an amount equal to 40% of the amount of non-Federal financial support received by public broadcasting entities during the second fiscal year preceding each such fiscal year, and for the period July 1, 1976 through September 30, 1976, an amount equal to 10% of the total amount of non-Federal financial support received by public broadcasting entities during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976. The amounts appropriated would be limited not to exceed \$88,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976; \$22,000,000 for the period July 1, 1976 through September 30, 1976; \$103,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1977; \$121,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1978; \$140,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1979; and \$160,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1980.

Of the amounts appropriated, the following portions would be distributed directly to on-the-air noncommercial educational broadcasting stations:

40% or more for the period July 1, 1975 through September 30, 1976, and for any fiscal year in which the amount appropriated is \$88,000,000 or more but less than \$121,000,000;

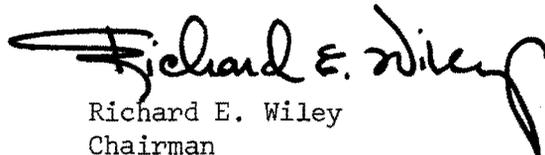
45% or more for any fiscal year in which the amount appropriated is \$121,000,000 or more but less than \$160,000,000;

50% or more for any fiscal year in which the amount appropriated is \$160,000,000.

Furthermore, any funds distributed under the bill to any public broadcasting station may not exceed, for any fiscal year, an amount equal to one-half of the station's total federal financial support during the second preceding fiscal year.

While the Commission is not expert on funding methods or the levels of funding needed or desirable in the context of the overall Federal budget, it has consistently supported the concept of long-term financing for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Therefore, the Commission has no objection to the President signing H.R. 6461 into law.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard E. Wiley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Richard E. Wiley
Chairman



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

DEC 23 1975

The Honorable James T. Lynn
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Lynn:

This is in response to your request of December 18, 1975, for a report on H.R. 6461, an enrolled bill "To amend certain provisions of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide long-term financing for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and for other purposes."

We support the purposes of the enrolled bill, which substantially embodies an Administration proposal. However, we defer to those agencies more directly affected by the bill as to the desirability of its enactment.

The enrolled bill would provide (1) a five-year authorization of appropriations for a newly created Public Broadcasting Fund (\$88 million for fiscal year 1976 gradually increasing to \$160 million for fiscal year 1980); (2) an assurance that a reasonable portion of the funds is distributed directly to local noncommercial educational broadcasting stations; and (3) an expansion of the scope of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 to include the development and use of nonbroadcast communications technology for the dissemination of educational radio and television programming.

The major respect in which this bill differs from the Administration proposal is that this bill would provide only an authorization of appropriations, whereas the Administration had proposed an appropriation for the Fund for the five-year period. While we considered the five-year appropriation an important aspect of the bill, we still endorse the remaining provisions of the bill as a well-considered vehicle for providing Federal support for public radio and television.

The Department has proposed on behalf of the Administration a five-year extension of the authorization for the Educational Broadcasting Facilities Program. That bill, H.R. 4564,

would also authorize support for a wider range of nonbroadcast telecommunications demonstrations. H.R. 4564 is presently moving through the Congress and we expect passage in the next session of Congress. That bill, together with the enrolled bill, will provide authority for an appropriate level of Federal support for educational broadcasting and the development of new nonbroadcast telecommunications technologies.

We therefore have no objection to the enrolled bill, but we defer to those agencies more directly affected as to the desirability of the bill's enactment.

Sincerely,


Secretary



OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1975

TO Jim CONNOR;
HERE IS A
PROPOSED
ENROLLMENT
SIGNING
STATEMENT.
WWW

Bill:

1975 DEC 20 AM 9 31

Here is the package we discussed regarding the public broadcasting financing bill (H.R. 6461). As I mentioned, this legislation is the culmination of about three years of effort on the part of OTP, starting with some arduous and touchy negotiations with public broadcasters and finishing with some difficult head-knocking with the Congress. The end product has been widely acknowledged as a major plus for the Administration.

John Eger has been out in front throughout the entire process, and I believe that the signing occasion, however brief and inauspicious it might be, should include him personally. I realize that the schedule is very tight, but I would appreciate whatever you can do.

As I also mentioned, Lynn May and I have concluded that a signing ceremony that would include the public broadcasters and key Congressmen and Senators is not a viable option in view of holiday absenteeism.



Tom Keller

Attachment

OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

Mr. Mickelson

December 19, 1975

GENERAL COUNSEL

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES M. FREY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

ATTENTION: RALPH MALVIK

FROM: THOMAS J. KELLER *TK.*

SUBJECT: Enrolled bill H.R. 6461, Public
Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975

This is in response to your request of December 18 for views and recommendations on the subject enrolled bill. I am attaching a draft "Enrolled Bill Memorandum" which sets forth the views of the Office of Telecommunications Policy.

OTP originated this legislation over two years ago, following extensive negotiations with representatives of the public broadcasting industry. While the enrolled bill does not incorporate all of the features of the Administration's original bill, we feel that it is a significant step forward. We recommend a signing statement that would applaud the bill as far as it goes, and urge the Congress to incorporate the remaining aspects of the Administration's proposal in the subsequent CPB appropriation bill.

Attachments



ENROLLED BILL MEMORANDUM
H.R. 6461, PUBLIC BROADCASTING FINANCING ACT OF 1975

This legislation is a derivative of an Administration bill providing for long term funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). The Administration bill, developed by the Office of Telecommunications Policy and finally agreed to by the public broadcasting community, contained four key features:

- (1) Provide Federal funding on a matching basis of one Federal dollar for every \$2.50 in non-Federal contributions;
 - (2) Require that a fixed percentage of the Federal subsidy for CPB be distributed directly to local public broadcasting stations pursuant to a statutory formula based on the needs of local stations and their audiences.
 - (3) Provide a multi-year authorization and appropriation for CPB for a five year period;
 - (4) Establish ceilings on the amount of Federal funding for each of the five years, ranging from \$70 million in FY76 to \$100 million in FY80.
-

The enrolled bill, although not conforming in all respects to the Administration's bill, is a significant achievement. The first and second features enumerated above are included in H.R. 6461. Together, they guarantee that Federal funding will not dominate the finances of public broadcasting and ensure that the Federal commitment will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

The Administration bill called for a five year authorization and appropriation. This feature was central to the Administration's proposal, as set out in the President's statement of February 13, 1975 (attached) addressing the necessity for insulating public broadcasting from the annual budgetary and appropriations processes in order to resolve the dilemma posed by government funding on the one hand, and government control over programming on the other. Because of a jurisdictional dispute between the House Commerce and Appropriations Committees, the appropriation language of the bill was excised. The House Appropriations Committee, in an adverse report on the Administration bill, intimated a disagreement with the five year appropriation approach, despite strong endorsement of the authorizing committees of both the House and the Senate. In its report, the House Appropriations Committee expressed a willingness to appropriate funds to public broadcasting annually on an advance-year basis, but appeared unwilling to go along with a

one time, five year appropriation. The appropriation for public broadcasting will most likely be taken up in February with the Second Supplemental.

The enrolled bill also differs from that proposed by the Administration in the level of the funding ceilings. The following table sets forth the differences:

	<u>Administration Ceilings</u>	<u>Enrolled Bill Ceilings</u>
FY76	\$70M	\$88M
Trans Qtr.	\$17.5M	\$22M
FY77	\$80M	\$103M
FY78	\$90M	\$121M
FY79	\$95M	\$140M
FY80	\$100M	\$160M

Recommended Action

Although the absence of a five year appropriation provision makes this bill "half a loaf" compared to the Administration's proposal, and although the authorization ceilings significantly exceed those of the Administration, neither of these features is sufficiently objectionable to justify a veto. Both deficiencies can and should be remedied in the follow-up appropriation. The ceilings on the matching appropriation should be reduced for obvious reasons; and the multi-year appropriation feature should be implemented to complete

the original design of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967. With regard to the latter point, the expressed intention of the House Appropriations Committee to approve annual advance-year appropriations does no more to achieve insulation between government and the medium than the present system of annual appropriations.

The signing of this bill should be accompanied by a statement applauding its advantages and strongly urging the Congress, and especially the House Appropriations Committee, to follow-up with a multi-year appropriation with lower spending limits. A draft of such a statement is attached.

Attachments

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

DEC 24 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill H.R. 6461 - Public Broadcasting
Financing Act of 1975
Sponsor - Rep. Macdonald (D) Mass. and 7 others

Last Day for Action

December 31, 1975 - Wednesday

Purpose

Provides a 5-year appropriation authorization for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, with a matching formula based on non-Federal contributions; requires a specified portion of the funds appropriated to CPB to be distributed to local stations; makes certain other changes in the public broadcasting law.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval (Signing statement attached)
Office of Telecommunications Policy	Approval (Signing statement attached)
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	Approval
Department of the Treasury	No objection
Federal Communications Commission	No objection
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare	No objection, but defers to other agencies

Discussion

In 1974 and again in February of 1975, the Administration submitted legislation to the Congress providing for long-term funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CAVANAUGH
FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *MLF.*
SUBJECT: H.R. 6461 - Public Broadcasting Financing Act

The Office of Legislative Affairs concurs with the agencies that the subject bill be signed.

Attachments

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 1573

Date: December 29

Time: 1030am

FOR ACTION: Lynn May
Paul Leach
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus
Paul Theis

cc (for information): Jack Marsh
Jim Cavanaugh
Warren Hendriks

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: December 30

Time: noon

SUBJECT:

H.R. 6461 - Public Broadcasting Financing Act

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, ground floor West Wing

Remains approved

ALM

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 1573

Date: December 29

Time: 1030am

FOR ACTION: Lynn May
Paul Leach
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus
Paul Theis

cc (for information): Jack Marsh
Jim Cavanaugh
Warren Hendriks

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: December 30

Time: noon

SUBJECT:

H.R. 6461 - Public Broadcasting Financing Act

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, ground floor West Wing

Recommend approval and issuance of OMB signing statement which should have some political utility. Suggest, however, that paragraph in statement on funding ceilings be deleted -- it appears to be just nit-picking (changes noted on page 2 of OMB draft statement).

Ken Lazarus 12/30/75

*Ken Lazarus worked this objection out w/ Lynn May & it is withdrawn
-1*

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

and I hope the Congress will accept that approach.

~~I am also concerned about the authorization ceilings~~ contained in H.R. 6461. The bill proposed by the Administration contained funding ceilings for a five year period ranging from \$70 million in the first year to \$100 million in the fifth year. Unfortunately, the Congress has increased these ceilings significantly, providing for a five year authorization ranging from \$88 million to \$160 million. In this time of severe strain on the Federal budget, I consider it essential that the appropriations provided under this bill conform to the limits which I intend to recommend in my fiscal year 1977 budget.

~~In spite of the deficiencies I have mentioned,~~ I believe the bill I am signing today will significantly enhance the ability of the public broadcasting community to continue to provide programming of excellence and diversity for the American people.



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 1573

Date: December 29

Time: 1030am

FOR ACTION: Lynn May *LM*
Paul Leach *PL*
Max Friedersdorf *MF*
Ken Lazarus *KL*
Paul Theis *PT*
Bill Schmidt

cc (for information): Jack Marsh
Jim Cavanaugh
Warren Hendriks

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: December 30

Time: 600pm

SUBJECT:

H.R. 6461 - Public Broadcasting Financing Act

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, ground floor West Wing

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR.
For the President

DEC 30 RECD

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 1573

Date: December 29

Time: 1030am

FOR ACTION: Lynn May
Paul Leach
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus
Paul Theis
Bill Seidman

cc (for information): Jack Marsh
Jim Cavanaugh
Warren Hendriks

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: December 30

Time: noon 500 PM

SUBJECT:

H.R. 6461 - Public Broadcasting Financing Act

ACTION REQUESTED:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Necessary Action | <input type="checkbox"/> For Your Recommendations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Agenda and Brief | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Reply |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Comments | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Remarks |

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, ground floor West Wing

*Approved
RWS*

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

DEC 30 1961

THE WHITE HOUSE

Aw

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: 1573

Date: December 29

Time: 1030am

FOR ACTION: Lynn May
Paul Leach
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus
Paul Theis

cc (for information): Jack Marsh
Jim Cavanaugh
Warren Hendriks

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: December 30

Time: noon

SUBJECT:

H.R. 6461 - Public Broadcasting Financing Act

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, ground floor West Wing

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

RRR

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am ~~very~~ ^{oh} pleased ~~to have the opportunity~~ ^{oh} to sign H.R. 6461, the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975.

This legislation, while not perfect, represents a milestone in the history of public broadcasting. It will help assure that public broadcasting can concentrate on being the effective and innovative source of educational and cultural programming which the American people have come to expect.

I congratulate the Congress for including in this new legislation most of the provisions originally recommended by the Administration. Under the bill, the level of Federal funding will be keyed to the ability of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the local broadcasters themselves to generate contributions from other sources. In addition, a significant percentage of the Federal contribution to public broadcasting will be required by law to be distributed to local public broadcasting stations. Both of these features insure that the Federal commitment to public broadcasting will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

I am also pleased that the legislation provides for a five year authorization. Multi-year financing for public broadcasting has been a long-sought objective as a means of insulating this important medium of expression from the possibility of undue governmental control.

I am disappointed, therefore, that the present bill does not include the corresponding five-year appropriation originally proposed by the Administration. The House Appropriations Committee, however, has indicated ~~that~~ it will recommend advance appropriations for public broadcasting,



and I hope the Congress will accept that approach.

I am also concerned about the authorization ceilings contained in H.R. 6461. The bill proposed by the Administration contained funding ceilings for a five year period ranging from \$70 million in the first year to \$100 million in the fifth year. Unfortunately, the Congress has increased these ceilings significantly, providing for a five year authorization ranging from \$88 million to \$160 million. In this time of severe strain on the Federal budget, I consider it essential that the appropriations provided under this bill conform to the limits which I intend to recommend in my fiscal year 1977 budget.

In spite of the deficiencies I have mentioned, I believe the bill I am signing today will significantly enhance the ability of the public broadcasting community to continue to provide ~~my~~ programming of excellence and diversity for the American people.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to sign H.R. 6461, the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975. This legislation, while not perfect, represents a milestone in the history of public broadcasting. It will help assure that public broadcasting can concentrate on being the effective and innovative source of educational and cultural programming which the American people have come to expect.

I congratulate the Congress for including in this new legislation most of the provisions originally recommended by the Administration. Under the bill, the level of Federal funding will be keyed to the ability of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the local broadcasters themselves to generate contributions from other sources. In addition, a significant percentage of the Federal contribution to public broadcasting will be required by law to be distributed to local public broadcasting stations. Both of these features insure that the Federal commitment to public broadcasting will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

I am also pleased that the legislation provides for a five-year authorization. Multi-year financing for public broadcasting has been a long-sought objective as a means of insulating this important medium of expression from the possibility of undue governmental control.

I am disappointed, therefore, that the present bill does not include the corresponding five-year appropriation originally proposed by the Administration. The House Appropriations Committee, however, has indicated it will recommend advance appropriations for public broadcasting, and I hope the Congress will accept that approach.

I am also concerned about the authorization ceilings contained in H.R. 6461. The bill proposed by the Administration contained funding ceilings for a five-year period ranging from \$70 million in the first year to \$100 million in the fifth year. Unfortunately, the Congress has increased these ceilings significantly, providing for a five-year authorization ranging from \$88 million to \$160 million. In this time of severe strain on the Federal budget, I consider it essential that the appropriations provided under this bill conform to the limits which I intend to recommend in my fiscal year 1977 budget.

In spite of the deficiencies I have mentioned, I believe the bill I am signing today will significantly enhance the ability of the public broadcasting community to continue providing programming of excellence and diversity for the American people.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to sign H.R. 6461, the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975. This legislation, while not perfect, represents a milestone in the history of public broadcasting. It will help assure that public broadcasting can concentrate on being the effective and innovative source of educational and cultural programming which the American people have come to expect.

I congratulate the Congress for including in this new legislation most of the provisions originally recommended by the Administration. Under the bill, the level of Federal funding will be keyed to the ability of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the local broadcasters themselves to generate contributions from other sources. In addition, a significant percentage of the Federal contribution to public broadcasting will be required by law to be distributed to local public broadcasting stations. Both of these features insure that the Federal commitment to public broadcasting will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

I am also pleased that the legislation provides for a five-year authorization. Multi-year financing for public broadcasting has been a long-sought objective as a means of insulating this important medium of expression from the possibility of undue governmental control.

I am disappointed, therefore, that the present bill does not include the corresponding five-year appropriation originally proposed by the Administration. The House Appropriations Committee, however, has indicated it will recommend advance appropriations for public broadcasting, and I hope the Congress will accept that approach.

02

I am also concerned about the authorization ceilings contained in H.R. 6461. The bill proposed by the Administration contained funding ceilings for a five-year period ranging from \$70 million in the first year to \$100 million in the fifth year. Unfortunately, the Congress has increased these ceilings significantly, providing for a five-year authorization ranging from \$88 million to \$160 million. In this time of severe strain on the Federal budget, I consider it essential that the appropriations provided under this bill conform to the limits which I intend to recommend in my fiscal year 1977 budget.

In spite of the deficiencies I have mentioned, I believe the bill I am signing today will significantly enhance the ability of the public broadcasting community to continue providing programming of excellence and diversity for the American people.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to sign H.R. 6461, the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975. This legislation, while not perfect, represents a milestone in the history of public broadcasting. It will help assure that public broadcasting can concentrate on being the effective and innovative source of educational and cultural programming which the American people have come to expect.

I congratulate the Congress for including in this new legislation most of the provisions originally recommended by the Administration. Under the bill, the level of Federal funding will be keyed to the ability of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the local broadcasters themselves to generate contributions from other sources. In addition, a significant percentage of the Federal contribution to public broadcasting will be required by law to be distributed to local public broadcasting stations. Both of these features insure that the Federal commitment to public broadcasting will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

I am also pleased that the legislation provides for a five-year authorization. Multi-year financing for public broadcasting has been a long-sought objective as a means of insulating this important medium of expression from the possibility of undue governmental control.

I am disappointed, therefore, that the present bill does not include the corresponding five-year appropriation originally proposed by the Administration. The House Appropriations Committee, however, has indicated it will recommend advance appropriations for public broadcasting, and I hope the Congress will accept that approach.

I am also concerned about the authorization ceilings contained in H.R. 6461. The bill proposed by the Administration contained funding ceilings for a five-year period ranging from \$70 million in the first year to \$100 million in the fifth year. Unfortunately, the Congress has increased these ceilings significantly, providing for a five-year authorization ranging from \$88 million to \$160 million. In this time of severe strain on the Federal budget, I consider it essential that the appropriations provided under this bill conform to the limits which I intend to recommend in my fiscal year 1977 budget.

In spite of the deficiencies I have mentioned, I believe the bill I am signing today will significantly enhance the ability of the public broadcasting community to continue providing programming of excellence and diversity for the American people.

#

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to sign H.R. 6461, the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975. This legislation, while not perfect, represents a milestone in the history of public broadcasting. It will help assure that public broadcasting can concentrate on being the effective and innovative source of educational and cultural programming which the American people have come to expect.

I congratulate the Congress for including in this new legislation most of the provisions originally recommended by the Administration. Under the bill, the level of Federal funding will be keyed to the ability of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the local broadcasters themselves to generate contributions from other sources. In addition, a significant percentage of the Federal contribution to public broadcasting will be required by law to be distributed to local public broadcasting stations. Both of these features insure that the Federal commitment to public broadcasting will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

I am also pleased that the legislation provides for a five-year authorization. Multi-year financing for public broadcasting has been a long-sought objective as a means of insulating this important medium of expression from the possibility of undue governmental control.

I am disappointed, therefore, that the present bill does not include the corresponding five-year appropriation originally proposed by the Administration. The House Appropriations Committee, however, has indicated it will recommend advance appropriations for public broadcasting, and I hope the Congress will accept that approach.

I am also concerned about the authorization ceilings contained in H.R. 6461. The bill proposed by the Administration contained funding ceilings for a five-year period ranging from \$70 million in the first year to \$100 million in the fifth year. Unfortunately, the Congress has increased these ceilings significantly, providing for a five-year authorization ranging from \$88 million to \$160 million. In this time of severe strain on the Federal budget, I consider it essential that the appropriations provided under this bill conform to the limits which I intend to recommend in my fiscal year 1977 budget.

In spite of the deficiencies I have mentioned, I believe the bill I am signing today will significantly enhance the ability of the public broadcasting community to continue providing programming of excellence and diversity for the American people.

NOT FOR RELEASE

DRAFT

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to sign H.R. 6461, the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975. This legislation, while not perfect, represents a milestone in the history of public broadcasting. It will help assure that public broadcasting can concentrate on being the effective and innovative source of educational and cultural programming which the American people have come to expect.

I congratulate the Congress for including in this new legislation most of the provisions originally recommended by the Administration. Under the bill, the level of Federal funding will be keyed to the ability of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the local broadcasters themselves to generate contributions from other sources. In addition, a significant percentage of the Federal contribution to public broadcasting will be required by law to be distributed to local public broadcasting stations. Both of these features insure that the Federal commitment to public broadcasting will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

I am also pleased that the legislation provides for a five year authorization. Multi-year financing for public broadcasting has been a long-sought objective as a means of insulating this important medium of expression from the possibility of undue governmental control.

I am disappointed, therefore, that the present bill does not include the corresponding five-year appropriation originally proposed by the Administration. ~~The House Appropriations Committee, however, has indicated that it will recommend advance appropriations for public broadcasting,~~

NOT FOR RELEASE

DRAFT

-2-

~~and I hope the Congress will accept that approach.~~

no
new ID

I am also concerned about the authorization ceilings contained in H.R. 6461. The bill proposed by the Administration contained funding ceilings for a five year period ranging from \$70 million in the first year to \$100 million in the fifth year. Unfortunately, the Congress has increased these ceilings significantly, providing for a five year authorization ranging from \$88 million to \$160 million. In this time of severe strain on the Federal budget, I consider it essential that the appropriations provided under this bill conform to the limits which I intend to recommend in my fiscal year 1977 budget.

In spite of the deficiencies I have mentioned, I believe the bill I am signing today will significantly enhance the ability of the public broadcasting community to continue to provide programming of excellence and diversity for the American people.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to sign H.R. 6461, the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975. This legislation, while not perfect, represents a milestone in the history of public broadcasting. It will help assure that public broadcasting can concentrate on being the effective and innovative source of educational and cultural programming which the American people have come to expect.

I congratulate the Congress for including in this new legislation most of the provisions originally recommended by the Administration. Under the bill, the level of Federal funding will be keyed to the ability of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the local broadcasters themselves to generate contributions from other sources. In addition, a significant percentage of the Federal contribution to public broadcasting will be required by law to be distributed to local public broadcasting stations. Both of these features insure that the Federal commitment to public broadcasting will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

I am also pleased that the legislation provides for a five-year authorization. Multi-year financing for public broadcasting has been a long-sought objective as a means of insulating this important medium of expression from the possibility of undue governmental control.

I am disappointed, therefore, that the present bill does not include the corresponding five-year appropriation originally proposed by the Administration. ~~The House Appropriations Committee, however, has indicated it will recommend advance appropriations for public broadcasting, and I hope the Congress will accept that approach.~~

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to sign H.R. 6461, the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975. This legislation, while not perfect, represents a milestone in the history of public broadcasting. It will help assure that public broadcasting can concentrate on being the effective and innovative source of educational and cultural programming which the American people have come to expect.

I congratulate the Congress for including in this new legislation most of the provisions originally recommended by the Administration. Under the bill, the level of Federal funding will be keyed to the ability of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the local broadcasters themselves to generate contributions from other sources. In addition, a significant percentage of the Federal contribution to public broadcasting will be required by law to be distributed to local public broadcasting stations. Both of these features insure that the Federal commitment to public broadcasting will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

I am also pleased that the legislation provides for a five-year authorization. Multi-year financing for public broadcasting has been a long-sought objective as a means of insulating this important medium of expression from the possibility of undue governmental control.

I am disappointed, therefore, that the present bill does not include the corresponding five-year appropriation originally proposed by the Administration.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to sign H.R. 6461, the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975. This legislation, while not perfect, represents a milestone in the history of public broadcasting. It will help assure that public broadcasting can concentrate on being the effective and innovative source of educational and cultural programming which the American people have come to expect.

I congratulate the Congress for including in this new legislation most of the provisions originally recommended by the Administration. Under the bill, the level of Federal funding will be keyed to the ability of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the local broadcasters themselves to generate contributions from other sources. In addition, a significant percentage of the Federal contribution to public broadcasting will be required by law to be distributed to local public broadcasting stations. Both of these features insure that the Federal commitment to public broadcasting will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

I am also pleased that the legislation provides for a five year authorization. Multi-year financing for public broadcasting has been a long-sought objective as a means of insulating this important medium of expression from the possibility of undue governmental control.

I am disappointed, therefore, that the present bill does not include the corresponding five-year appropriation originally proposed by the Administration. The House Appropriations Committee, however, has indicated that it will recommend advance appropriations for public broadcasting,

and I hope the Congress will accept that approach.

I am also concerned about the authorization ceilings contained in H.R. 6461. The bill proposed by the Administration contained funding ceilings for a five year period ranging from \$70 million in the first year to \$100 million in the fifth year. Unfortunately, the Congress has increased these ceilings significantly, providing for a five year authorization ranging from \$88 million to \$160 million. In this time of severe strain on the Federal budget, I consider it essential that the appropriations provided under this bill conform to the limits which I intend to recommend in my fiscal year 1977 budget.

In spite of the deficiencies I have mentioned, I believe the bill I am signing today will significantly enhance the ability of the public broadcasting community to continue to provide programming of excellence and diversity for the American people.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to sign H.R. 6461, the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975. This legislation, while not perfect, represents a milestone in the history of public broadcasting. It will help assure that public broadcasting can concentrate on being the effective and innovative source of educational and cultural programming which the American people have come to expect.

I congratulate the Congress for including in this new legislation most of the provisions originally recommended by the Administration. Under the bill, the level of Federal funding will be keyed to the ability of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the local broadcasters themselves to generate contributions from other sources. In addition, a significant percentage of the Federal contribution to public broadcasting will be required by law to be distributed to local public broadcasting stations. Both of these features insure that the Federal commitment to public broadcasting will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

I am also pleased that the legislation provides for a five-year authorization. Multi-year financing for public broadcasting has been a long-sought objective as a means of insulating this important medium of expression from the possibility of undue governmental control.

I am disappointed, therefore, that the present bill does not include the corresponding five-year appropriation originally proposed by the Administration.

I am also concerned about the authorization ceilings contained in H.R. 6461. The bill proposed by the Administration contained funding ceilings for a five-year period ranging from \$70 million in the first year to \$100 million in the fifth year. Unfortunately, the Congress has increased these ceilings significantly, providing for a five-year authorization ranging from \$88 million to \$160 million. In this time of severe strain on the Federal budget, I consider it essential that the appropriations provided under this bill conform to the limits which I intend to recommend in my fiscal year 1977 budget.

In spite of the deficiencies I have mentioned, I believe the bill I am signing today will significantly enhance the ability of the public broadcasting community to continue providing programming of excellence and diversity for the American people.

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I ~~am~~ pleased to sign H.R. 6461, the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975. This legislation, while not perfect, represents a milestone in the history of public broadcasting. It will help assure that public broadcasting can concentrate on being the effective and innovative source of educational and cultural programming which the American people have come to expect.

I congratulate the Congress for including in this new legislation most of the provisions originally recommended by the Administration. Under the bill, the level of Federal funding will be keyed to the ability of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the local broadcasters themselves to generate contributions from other sources. In addition, a significant percentage of the Federal contribution to public broadcasting will be required by law to be distributed to local public broadcasting stations. Both of these features insure that the Federal commitment to public broadcasting will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

I am also pleased that the legislation provides for a five-year authorization. Multi-year financing for public broadcasting has been a long-sought objective as a means of insulating this important medium of expression from the possibility of undue governmental control.

I am disappointed, therefore, that the present bill does not include the corresponding five-year appropriation originally proposed by the Administration.

I am also concerned about the authorization ceilings contained in H.R. 6461. The bill proposed by the Administration contained funding ceilings for a five-year period ranging from \$70 million in the first year to \$100 million in the fifth year. Unfortunately, the Congress has increased these ceilings significantly, providing for a five-year authorization ranging from \$88 million to \$160 million. In this time of severe strain on the Federal budget, I consider it essential that the appropriations provided under this bill conform to the limits which I intend to recommend in my fiscal year 1977 budget.

I have signed
In spite of the deficiencies I have mentioned, I believe the bill ~~is a step in the right direction~~ will significantly enhance the ability of the public broadcasting community to continue providing programming of excellence and diversity for the American people.

#

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to sign H.R. 6461, the Public Broadcasting Financing Act of 1975. This legislation, while not perfect, represents a milestone in the history of public broadcasting. It will help assure that public broadcasting can concentrate on being the effective and innovative source of educational and cultural programming which the American people have come to expect.

I congratulate the Congress for including in this new legislation most of the provisions originally recommended by the Administration. Under the bill, the level of Federal funding will be keyed to the ability of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the local broadcasters themselves to generate contributions from other sources. In addition, a significant percentage of the Federal contribution to public broadcasting will be required by law to be distributed to local public broadcasting stations. Both of these features insure that the Federal commitment to public broadcasting will be dependent upon and responsive to the interests and needs of local audiences.

I am also pleased that the legislation provides for a five-year authorization. Multi-year financing for public broadcasting has been a long-sought objective as a means of insulating this important medium of expression from the possibility of undue governmental control.

I am disappointed, therefore, that the present bill does not include the corresponding five-year appropriation originally proposed by the Administration. The House Appropriations Committee, however, has indicated it will recommend advance appropriations for public broadcasting, and I hope the Congress will accept that approach.

I am also concerned about the authorization ceilings contained in H.R. 6461. The bill proposed by the Administration contained funding ceilings for a five-year period ranging from \$70 million in the first year to \$100 million in the fifth year. Unfortunately, the Congress has increased these ceilings significantly, providing for a five-year authorization ranging from \$88 million to \$160 million. In this time of severe strain on the Federal budget, I consider it essential that the appropriations provided under this bill conform to the limits which I intend to recommend in my fiscal year 1977 budget.

In spite of the deficiencies I have mentioned, I believe the bill I am signing today will significantly enhance the ability of the public broadcasting community to continue providing programming of excellence and diversity for the American people.

#