

June 5, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 9630 - Educational Broadcasting Facilities and Telecommunications Demonstration Act Extension of 1976. This bill extends through fiscal year 1977 the appropriation authorization for the educational broadcast facilities program administered by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), and authorizes a new program of telecommunications demonstrations.

HEW's educational broadcast facilities program, initiated in 1962, provides Federal grants to eligible applicants of up to 75% of the cost of acquiring and installing specified radio and television broadcasting facilities.

The major provisions:

- H. R. 9630 will extend the authorization for the facilities program only through fiscal year 1977 and will provide a separate authorization for the demonstration program for the same period.
- The bill will establish separate funding criteria for radio and television; for radio stations, first priority would be placed on extending coverage of stations to unserved populations rather than upgrading existing facilities.
- The bill will increase the Federal share of grants to stations for the purchase of audio recording equipment from the current maximum of 75% to full funding by the Federal Government.
- H. R. 9630 will broaden the definition of the term "construction" to include certain reception apparatus, such as radio subcarrier receivers and satellite transceivers.

H. R. 9630 would authorize \$7.5 million for the transition quarter and \$30 million for fiscal year 1977 for the educational broadcasting facilities program. The bill also contains a separate appropriation authorization of \$250,000 for the transition quarter and \$1 million for fiscal year 1977 for the new demonstration authority.

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