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Fairfax, Ca.

5-27-93

C-Span

Here's a clip from The SF Chronicle. for your information.

I listen to a Talk Show from Las Vegas nightly 1-6 a.m. - have done so for ten years. ART BELL host.

We've been alerted to The danger from BIG BROTHER ~~for~~ some time - That is, Threat of destruction of talk shows. The power groups operating thru Congress have gotten The message in The last election That The people are awakening and learning about Their government and demanding the truth. C-Span is a powerful force for Their education. Hence the Threat. I do not Think THE PEOPLE will allow it!

Sincerely →

[redacted]

cc: Peter Kiley

Viacom Sues to Block 'Must-Carry' Rules

Law will force operators to change lineup in favor of local TV stations

By Jim Doyle
Chronicle Staff Writer

Viacom International went to court yesterday to try to stop the federal government from going ahead next Wednesday with new rules that will force Viacom and other cable operators across the country to change the lineup of TV channels offered to their subscribers.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, could have broad implications in the cable television industry. The suit asks a federal judge to immediately enjoin the Federal Communications Commission from enforcing the so-called must-carry rules in Northern California.

The new rules, adopted last year by Congress as part of the 1992 Cable Act, require cable operators to carry the broadcast signals of certain local TV stations. A few popular stations would have to be dropped.

U.S. District Judge Eugene Lynch plans to schedule a special hearing in the case as early as tomorrow.

"At its heart, this is a freedom of speech issue," John Goddard, president of Viacom's cable division, said in a statement yesterday.

Viacom says the must-carry rules are unconstitutional because they deprive cable operators of their right to choose which channels to provide to subscribers.

The cable giant also maintains that the rules discriminate against cable operators in favor of TV stations; would violate its property rights by undercutting its ability to turn a profit; and would inhibit its ability to develop new channels.

Last month, the U.S. Supreme Court refused a request by the Atlanta-based Turner Broadcasting System, which owns several cable networks, to delay implementation of the must-carry rules.

The decision issued by Chief Justice William Rehnquist said Turner had failed to show that cable operators have a First Amendment right to be free from the government regulations.

The new rules give television stations the choice of electing to be carried by cable operators on a must-carry basis or negotiating deals with the operators to have their stations carried at a prime spot on the dial for a fee that would be paid by the cable operator.

A cable operator has no choice but to carry any licensed station in its prime service area that demands a must-carry designation.

In the Bay Area, the new rules would require Viacom to carry the signals of 17 local broadcast stations, some of which have enjoyed only small audiences in the past, including a number of religious format and Asian- and Spanish-language channels.

To make room for the new stations, Viacom says, it would be forced to reduce its San Francisco subscribers' access to C-SPAN, which provides live coverage of congressional proceedings in Washington. It also would probably have to drop the Bravo channel in Marin. In the East Bay, the cable firm would drop the Sneak Prevue channel and reduce access to the VH-1 music video channel.

Viacom, based in New York, is one of the larger cable television companies in the nation. It has about 390,000 subscribers throughout the Bay Area.

The controversy is expected to be a short-term problem. With new technology, cable systems are expected in the next few years to be able to provide up to 400 channels of news and entertainment — enough channels to carry local TV signals and premium channels.

Chronicle staff writer John Carman contributed to this report.

Latest Idea On Financing Health Reform

Washington Post

Washington

President Clinton's health care advisers now believe the only general tax necessary to finance health coverage for 37 million uninsured Americans may be a tax on cigarets.

Most of the funds needed, they argue, could be obtained by requiring all employers to pay for a percentage of their employees' health coverage.

Much of the rest could come from redirecting money paid by the federal government, employers and individuals to compensate hospitals for treating people who cannot pay their own bills and do not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare.

Yesterday, a high-ranking administration official described the amount needed "as minor, a cigaret tax." The cigaret tax, the official said, would be used to finance promised coverage of some long-term care and pharmaceutical coverage in the proposed "standard benefit package" that the administration is expected to announce next month.

MEMOR

Mrs. Clinton Cites 'Security' As Key Benefit of Health Reform

Chronicle Wire Services

Washington

Sharpening her sales pitch for health reform, an impassioned Hillary Rodham Clinton warned yesterday that even well-insured Americans "no longer can take for granted" their medical coverage.

Mrs. Clinton's remarks indicated the administration's latest thinking on how to win the support of the pivotal middle class for a health reform plan now nearing completion.

Raising her voice to drive home her points, Mrs. Clinton told a labor union audience that everyone is at risk because they could lose their jobs, their employers could cut back on insurance or they could be dropped because of a particular health problem.

form, which is putting the final touches on a plan that would guarantee health care for all Americans and control costs.

"Security" is the major theme of the administration's sales campaign for its plan, but the first lady also stressed four other ideas: assuring that Americans have freedom to choose their doctors and health plans; getting rising health costs under control; guaranteeing high quality care; and reducing burdensome paperwork for the medical industry and patients.

Mrs. Clinton sought to defuse fears that the reform plan might force Americans to give up their current doctors and join large group health organizations.

An "absolute bedrock principle" of reform is as much "con-

knowledged — that Americans who pick fee-for-service plans almost certainly will pay more than those who choose health maintenance organizations.

In another meeting, a closed session with consumer groups and health care experts, Mrs. Clinton seemed to deflate hopes for generous open-ended coverage of psychotherapy and other mental health care in the near future. Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Al Gore, has been a tireless advocate for equity or parity in insurance coverage of mental and physical illnesses. Private insurance plans often set stringent limits on mental health care when there are no such limits on of physical illnesses.

Sharon L. Cohen, assistant director of government relations at the American Psychiatric Associa-

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