

MAY 4, 1971

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RURAL TELEPHONE BANK BILL

TAPE #1

IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, THE HOUSE AND SENATE GAVE FINAL APPROVAL TO THE RURAL TELEPHONE BANK BILL. THIS ACTION APPROVED THE COMPROMISED DIFFERENCES IN THE SENATE-PASSED VERSION, WHICH I INTRODUCED, AND THE HOUSE-PASSED VERSION, WHICH CONGRESSMAN POAGE OF TEXAS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE.

THE BILL NOW NEEDS ONLY THE SIGNATURE OF PRESIDENT NEXION TO BECOME LAW. AND THE PRESIDENT SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED PROMPT ACTION ON THIS BILL IN JANUARY, WHEN HE OUTLINED HIS LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS.

SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS OF RURAL KANSAS, HAVE LONG NEEDED THIS LEGISLATION. WITH THE RURAL TELEPHONE BANK, RURAL TELEPHONE SYSTEMS CAN NOW HAVE THE FINANCIAL BACKING NEEDED TO PROVIDE THE TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS NECESSARY TO REACH A RURAL-URBAN BALANCE IN AMERICA

Suggested radio script
Senate Recording Studio

May 4, 1971

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TAPE #2

RURAL TELEPHONE BANK BILL

IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, THE HOUSE AND SENATE GAVE FINAL APPROVAL TO THE RURAL TELEPHONE BANK BILL. THIS ACTION APPROVED THE COMPROMISED DIFFERENCES IN THE SENATE-PASSED VERSION, WHICH I INTRODUCED, AND THE HOUSE-PASSED VERSION, WHICH CONGRESSMAN POAGE OF TEXAS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE.

THE BILL NOW NEEDS ONLY THE SIGNATURE OF PRESIDENT NIXON TO BECOME LAW. AND THE PRESIDENT SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED PROMPT ACTION ON THIS BILL IN JANUARY, WHEN HE OUTLINED HIS LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS.

THE RURAL TELEPHONE BANK BILL PROVIDES FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNDING OF A BANK TO MAKE LONG-TERM LOANS TO RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANIES AND COOPERATIVES THAT ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN COMMERCIAL FINANCING. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR URBAN DWELLERS TO BELIEVE, BUT THERE ARE STILL MANY FARMS WITHOUT TELEPHONE SERVICE (18 PER CENT OF OUR COUNTRY'S RURAL POPULATION.) AND A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF EXISTING RURAL TELEPHONE SERVICE IS PARTY LINE SERVICE, WITH THREE OR MORE FARMS PER LINE.

TELEPHONE COMPANIES ARE UNABLE TO BUILD THE MANY MILES OF LINES NECESSARY TO PROVIDE TELEPHONE SERVICE IN SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS RURAL AREAS WITHOUT THESE LONG-TERM LOW INTEREST LOANS. RURAL AREAS, SUCH AS PARTS OF WESTERN KANSAS, UNDER THE RURAL TELEPHONE BANK PROGRAM, WILL NOW BE QUALIFIED FOR THE LOW INTEREST LOANS NEEDED TO PROVIDE BETTER TELEPHONE SERVICE.

WITH THE RURAL TELEPHONE BANK, OUR RURAL TELEPHONE SYSTEMS CAN HAVE THE FINANCIAL BACKING THEY NEED TO PROVIDE THE TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS NECESSARY TO REACH A RURAL-URBAN BALANCE IN AMERICA. IT IS WELL THAT CONGRESS IS BECOMING MORE CONCERNED WITH IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS IN RURAL AREAS; AND I AM PLEASED TO HAVE AUTHORED THE SENATE BILL, THAT NOW AS PROVIDED BY CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURE, WILL BE KNOWN AS THE DOLE-POAGE ACT.

(END)