



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.) New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521  
STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
HEARINGS ON THE BROADCAST LICENSE RENEWAL ACT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Mr. Chairman, the uncertainty and ambiguity which now surrounds the procedures for renewal of broadcasting licenses is detrimental to both the broadcasting industry and the American people. The problem can only become more severe while renewal procedures remain vague and uncertain. And the continuation of such a condition is not in the best interests of the broadcasting industry or the public it serves.

In recent years, various FCC policies and federal court rulings have caused confusion among broadcasters as to the standards by which their performance will be judged in applications for license renewal. At the same time, competing applicants have been encouraged to make excessive promises in their challenges to license renewals. The result has been an unstable system of broadcast license renewal procedures which serve no valid public purpose.

It is vital that a stable license renewal process be established to eliminate this doubt and disparity. Broadcasters whose licenses are due for renewal should know exactly where they stand and by what standards they will be judged, challenges should be weighed against specific criteria, and the commission's renewal decisions should reflect the unquestionable fairness which is demanded of such proceedings.

I specifically support the provisions of the House bill providing for license renewals of up to five years. I feel this extension of the permissible license term will prove to be beneficial to broadcasters by enabling them to engage in more extended planning, budgeting and development. And these factors will in turn result in higher quality service to the audiences and communities served by the broadcasting industry.

Regular and orderly renewal standards combined with longer license terms and further refinements in the Communications Act would be of benefit to all concerned, including broadcasters, new applicants, the FCC and--ultimately-- the public at large. I urge the subcommittee to examine the various legislative recommendations which are before it and apply its customary diligence and expertise toward the formulation of license renewal procedures which will promote an appropriate degree of stability in this important communications field and thereby enhance the quality of broadcasting service available to the public.