

February 10, 1971

Dear Dean:

Thanks for checking with Bob Wells on the problem between the Associated Press and the^x Emergency Broadcasting System. I think that Wes Gallagher's question was more in terms of the approach made than the test in general terms, although, obviously any tests made of length of frequency would seriously impede transmission of news.

I will check with Wes to see if there is any further problem.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Herbert G. Klein
Director of Communications
for the Executive Branch

The Honorable Dean Burch
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D. C.

HGK"jb

HGK CHRON
HGK ALPHA
JB CHRON
TB, FYI

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YBW
February 11, 1971

EXECUTIVE
ND 2-2
FG 118

PERSONAL

Dear Wes: ^xGALLAGHER

As I told you, I was checking into the ^xEmergency Broadcasting System request to try to resolve the problem. The key points are those covered in three paragraphs of a Robert Wells' memo which reads as follows:

"For years, tests of the Emergency Broadcast System have been conducted on a scheduled basis. For the past several months, plans have been made for a more meaningful test. This would entail the institution of tests on a random basis. We have known that this would cause some problems with ^xAP, ^xUPI and the commercial broadcast stations. During the various discussions on these matters, it has always been made quite clear that participation in the exercises is voluntary. If we cannot structure random tests under the plans we now have, we will go to some other alternate method.

"These plans were developed by an industry advisory committee. (Working Group I, Broadcast Services Subcommittee, National Industry Advisory Committee) The Associated Press is represented on this group. I am attaching the text of the message that we have requested the wire services to transmit. The reporting form for the stations is in addition to the original agreement. You will note that paragraph 3 makes plain to the broadcast stations that submission of the form is voluntary..

"In other words, the entire negotiations have stressed the point that industry participation in the Emergency Broadcast System must be of their own choosing. Incidentally, over 5,000 stations have submitted reports on the recent random test."

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My guess is that regardless of the answer, over-zealousness by employees of the FCC probably has been cooled down as a result of the inquiry. I did find both Dean Burch and Bob Wells most cooperative and interested in the problem.

I enjoyed seeing you Monday night.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

Herbert G. Klein
Director of Communications
for the Executive Branch

Mr. Wes Gallagher
General Manager
Associated Press
50 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10020

Enclosure

HGK:MEW:jaw

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SUBJECT
CHRON

A. AN EMERGENCY ACTION NOTIFICATION (EAN) TEST MESSAGE will be released at the direction of the White House Communications Agency (WHCA) and disseminated simultaneously on the Associated Press (AP) and the United Press International (UPI) Radio Wire Teletype Networks. Normal Radio Wire Teletype service will be interrupted.

B. EAN TEST MESSAGE will be received as follows:

1. Transmission of full line of "X's"
2. Ten-Bell Alarm
3. Transmission of Test Message as follows: (verify with EBS-2 TEST SERIES LIST)

THIS MESSAGE AUTHORIZES A CLOSED CIRCUIT TEST OF THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM. REPEAT, THIS MESSAGE AUTHORIZES A CLOSED CIRCUIT TEST OF THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM. ALL STATIONS WILL TAKE ACTIONS AS STATED ON GREEN INSTRUCTION CARD FOR THIS TEST.

AUTHENTICATOR WORD _____ (verify with EBS-2 TEST SERIES LIST)
(date and time of transmission, - Washington, D. C. time)

4. Transmission of full line of "X's"
5. Ten-Bell Alarm

(Following completion of the above transmission, normal Radio Wire Teletype service of AP and UPI will then be resumed. Immediately upon resumption of service, AP and UPI will transmit the following message to all station managers:)

TO: ALL STATION MANAGERS

FROM: COMMISSIONER ROBERT WELLS
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: REPORT ON RANDOM CLOSED CIRCUIT TESTS OF THE EANS AND
PRESIDENTIAL PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS.

1. A RANDOM CLOSED CIRCUIT TEST OF THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM
HAS JUST BEEN CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 73.961 (d) AND 73.962
OF THE FCC RULES.

2. WE ASK THAT ALL AM-FM-TV STATIONS IMMEDIATELY FILL IN THE FOLLOWING
REPORT AND SUBMIT BOTH THE PRECEDING EAN CLOSED CIRCUIT TEST MESSAGE AND THE
REPORT, UNSEPARATED, TO THE CHIEF, EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION, FCC,
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554.

REPORT

THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED BY STATION _____ (CALL LETTERS), LOCATED AT
_____, _____ (CITY), _____ (STATE) FOR THE RANDOM CLOSED CIRCUIT
TEST CONDUCTED ON _____ (MONTH), _____ (DAY), _____ (YEAR)

FIRST METHOD EMERGENCY ACTION NOTIFICATION (AP AND UPI SUBSCRIBERS)
AUTHENTICATOR WORD AND TEST MESSAGE WERE RECEIVED ON THE _____ (AP OR UPI)
RADIO WIRE TELETYPE AT _____ (LOCAL TIME).

SECOND METHOD EMERGENCY ACTION NOTIFICATION AND TEST PROGRAM (NETWORK AFFILIATED
STATIONS ONLY) THIS STATION IS AFFILIATED WITH THE _____ (ABC, CBS, INN,
MBS, NBC) NATIONWIDE COMMERCIAL, RADIO BROADCAST NETWORK. TEST TALKUP AND CLOSED
CIRCUIT TEST PROGRAM WAS RECEIVED OVER THE NETWORK LINE AT _____
(LOCAL TIME).

SIGNED _____, TITLE _____

3. SUBMISSION OF THE ABOVE REPORTING FORM IS VOLUNTARY. YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS
MATTER IS APPRECIATED.

ROBERT WELLS
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

(DATE/TIME OF TRANSMISSION)