

Mr. W. J. Bresnan, President
Teleprompter Corporation
50 West 44th Street
New York, N.Y. 10036

Dear Mr. Bresnan:

The Santa Cruz Public Access Coalition has been actively involved in attempting to secure public access to the Teleprompter Cable System in this area for the last eighteen months. We first broached the idea to your local system manager, Kester Krieg, in December, 1970. Although his initial response was positive, when specific video tapes were produced and made available, he found "technical" reasons for rejecting them. This was our first indication that, at least at the local level, Teleprompter would be reluctant to support and encourage access.

In observing public access in other parts of the country, such as New York City, we noted that access was provided when required by the franchise agreement. We took the issue to the Santa Cruz City Council in October, 1971 to request an amendment to the franchise requiring public access. At minimum Teleprompter did not support the access concept and at maximum it obstructed a favorable hearing from the Council.

A public access petition was then circulated and one out of every ten registered voters signed the petition. Thus broadbased community interest in public access was conclusively demonstrated.

This organization, and others like it, are concerned that any franchises granted in the future include service features and requirements which will meet the needs of the community involved. We have a list of every community in California that will be granting a franchise in the next year. We are, and will continue to be, in contact with these municipalities. We will advise them in accordance with our experience.

Teleprompter has an established record of public service in other cable communities. We believe that our interests are the same: communication systems that serve people. We look forward to your response,

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Sales & H. Allan Frederiksen
for the Santa Cruz Public Access Coalition

The problem of public access and how to get it, along with all the other questions of who should have access for what and the problem of existing franchise agreements which do not give public access, and the legal question of such agreements which are obviously not in the public interest are basically in the hands of the FCC. Allan has addressed himself to that group in the following letter:



AN OPEN LETTER TO FCC COMMISSIONERS

In a recent news item in *Broadcasting Magazine* (9 October, p. 5), it was reported that the Office of Telecommunications Policy has nearly completed long-range policy recommendations on cable television. The proposals were said to include policies "recommending that cable TV be structured as common-carrier as means of increasing access to [the] medium. . . ."

The Committee For Open Media is deeply concerned as to whether these proposals will truly enhance the public's access to cable TV. The Committee further believes it wholly inappropriate that a private executive input procedure be employed for the formulation of public policy.

Cable TV has the potential of becoming the primary distribution medium of all forms of communication within the next decade. It seems incomprehensible that policies in such an important area as cable communications could be formulated without any definition of needs being sought from the general public.

The Committee For Open Media requests that the FCC begin a formal inquiry with full input from the general public on the problem of access to cable TV. In particular the Commission should explore the possibility of overseeing the establishment of non-profit community leased channels.

Faithfully yours,

Phil Jacklin & Allan Frederiksen,
(Johnny Videotape)

The outcome of the rising public demand for access to what is probably a public utility in the first place is far from settled. Only diligent public servants and individuals like Allan Frederiksen, Sue Fox and Roberto Esteves and writers like Brom and Evers can turn the tide toward more public open access information exchange.